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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2006–2007

COMPRISING PERIOD
8 October 2007—19 October 2007

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 8 October 2007

TREASURY

ECOFIN: 14-15 Septemeber 2007

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) took place in Porto on 14 and 15 September 2007. The Informal Council discussed the modernisation of public administrations and its impact on competitiveness, the current economic and financial situation, and issues related to the IMF.

The main discussion focused on the impact of an efficient public administration on overall competitiveness. This is a stated Portuguese presidency priority; the quality of public finances is a common theme to the German, Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies.

The Informal Council also discussed the current economic situation and the volatility in global financial markets. I set out that as a global issue, this demanded a global response and made proposals to EU finance ministers that we must remain fully engaged, acting with the wider international community, in strengthening arrangements for ensuring financial stability. I will also be making proposals at the meetings of the G7 and International Monetary Fund in October. Ministers continued the long-running discussion of how to take forward EU arrangements for financial stability, and considered ongoing initiatives to improve cross-border post-trading arrangements in Europe. The Informal Council also discussed the reform of quotas and voice in the IMF.

The UK was represented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

ECOFIN: 9 October 2007

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held on 9 October in Luxembourg. The items on the agenda are as follows:

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

Ministers will discuss Commission recommendations to abrogate the Excessive Deficit Procedure of the United Kingdom and discuss new recommendations for the Czech Republic to take further action in order to bring the Excessive Deficit to an end.

Public Finances in the EMU

Ministers will be invited to agree conclusions, following their discussion in July on the Commission's annual Public Finances Report and accompanying proposals aimed at improving the effectiveness of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact by effectively applying the revised Stability and Growth Pact.

The UK Government support a prudent interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact, taking into account the economic cycle, the long-term sustainability of the public finances, and the important role of public investment.

Quality of Public Finances

Ministers will be invited to adopt conclusions on the role that the modernisation of public administration can play in enhancing competitiveness, delivering better services, achieving better value for money and ensuring the control of government expenditure. The UK welcomes the sharing of experiences between member states on this issue.

Developments on the Economic and Financial Situation

Following on from discussions at the informal ECOFIN in September, Ministers will discuss the current economic situation and disturbances in global financial markets, including the possible policy responses to the issues raised. The UK strongly supports the proposed work of the Financial Stability Forum on these issues and is committed to pursuing an effective, considered global response to these global financial market issues.

Better Regulation

Ministers will be invited to agree on conclusions on better regulation and its role in improving EU competitiveness. The UK supports the positive efforts of the Commission and welcomes the progress made both at member states and EU level towards reducing administrative burdens in the EU.

Flexicurity

Ministers will be invited to agree conclusions on the economic aspects of flexicurity, welcoming recent work by the Commission on developing an approach towards shared principles to develop labour market flexibility alongside support by social systems. The UK believes that fiscal sustainability is critical in the face of Europe's changing demographics.

Dialogues with Third Countries

Ministers will hear an update from the Commission on its dialogues with third countries, including USA, Japan, China, India and Russia, with a focus on the economic, financial and regulatory aspects of those discussions.

Financial Services—Clearing and Settlement

Ministers will be invited to agree conclusions on Clearing and Settlement covering the ECB's proposed target 2 securities project, the implementation and functioning of the code of conduct, progress on removal of the Giovannini barriers and the ESCB/CESR standards. These initiatives are intended to address deficiencies in the European clearing and settlement landscape—an area where the Council has long been pressing for change. The UK welcomes progress in addressing these deficiencies.

Financial Services—EU Arrangements for Financial Stability

Ministers will be invited to agree conclusions on the long-running discussion of how to take forward EU arrangements for financial stability. The UK strongly supports efforts to improve financial crisis management

arrangements in Europe, and improvements to the financial stability arrangements in general, including ensuring all member states have robust national crisis management arrangements, and improvements to cross border communication and co-operation in financial crises.

International Financial Market Instability

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The House will want to discuss the events in the international financial markets this summer. To assist this debate, I am making this written statement to set out a summary of what has happened and the action taken in response. I will make an oral statement later this week.

International Financial Markets—Recent Developments

Over recent years, the world economy and global financial markets saw an unprecedented period of stability and prosperity. This has been accompanied by: lower average long-term interest rates in advanced economies than at any time over the previous three decades; low default rates on borrowing; investors seeking higher returns; and lower premiums for riskier lending.

Since late July, global financial markets have suffered disruption and turbulence, triggered initially by problems in the US sub-prime mortgage market. Uncertainty over institutional exposure to potential losses on sub-prime mortgages caused reductions in liquidity across a range of financial markets. This uncertainty has been exacerbated by the fact that assets and liabilities have increasingly been managed off-balance sheet in complex structured investment vehicles and conduits.

In these circumstances, a range of asset-backed securities could no longer be sold or traded. These problems spread to money markets and funding costs increased for banks, with inter-bank lending spreads rising by up to 100 basis points in major financial centres and terms of lending shortened significantly. Bond, equity, commodity and foreign exchange markets around the world were affected as investors lost confidence and a re-pricing of risk began that is still continuing. In this way, even institutions with no direct exposure to sub-prime mortgages have been affected.

These developments have affected economies and institutions across the world. Many banks and funds have suffered losses due to direct exposure to sub-prime mortgages and associated securities. For example, in the US a number of sub-prime mortgage lenders have had severe difficulties and funds holding large quantities of mortgage debt instruments were also affected. In Germany, two banks had to be helped after suffering from similar exposures. Banks elsewhere in Europe suspended the activities of funds after exposure to sub-prime products left them unable to value them appropriately. Funds in other countries, including Australia and Canada, have also been affected.

Impact on the Financial Sector

The UK entered the recent period of turbulence in the global financial markets in a strong position. The UK economy has seen 60 quarters of growth—the longest and most stable period of growth since records began—and is expected to continue to grow.

Moreover, the banking sector in the UK has benefited from a period of strong growth which helped it build up healthy balance sheets and capital positions. Most major UK banks reported good profit results for the 2006 financial year and continued to report increases in pre-tax profits in their interim results for the first half of 2007. Throughout this period of growth and stability, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) continued to set capital requirements for all banks above the minima required by EU law and international standards.

Direct exposures in the UK to losses from sub-prime mortgages have been less significant than in some other countries. However, because of the broader impact of the turbulence on global markets, some financial institutions have found themselves under funding pressure due to the seizing up of asset-backed commercial paper markets and the drying up of liquidity in the inter-bank markets.

Northern Rock Plc

Northern Rock Plc faced specific difficulties in these circumstances. Its recent problems were not caused by direct exposure to sub-prime mortgages in the US or the UK: indeed, it has a good quality loan book. Rather, its problems have been associated with wider conditions in the wholesale funding markets. The market for new securitisations had largely closed as investors' demand for such assets fell across the world. Furthermore, the market conditions in August and September resulted in liquidity in the wholesale money markets drying up, with a shortening of duration of funding and an increase in its cost. The combination of these factors contributed to serious liquidity problems for Northern Rock Plc.

Following advice from the Governor of the Bank of England and the chairman of the FSA that the position of Northern Rock Plc, given market conditions at that time, constituted a genuine threat to the stability of the financial system, I concluded that it was appropriate and necessary for the Bank of England to provide liquidity support to Northern Rock Plc. Northern Rock Plc issued a profit warning on 14 September. At the same time, the authorities issued a statement about the provision of a special liquidity facility to Northern Rock Plc.

On 17 September, to put the matter of security of deposits beyond doubt, I announced that, should it be necessary, the Government, with the Bank of England, would put in place arrangements that would guarantee all the existing deposits in Northern Rock Plc during the current instability in the financial markets.

Throughout this period the Treasury, the FSA and the Bank of England have worked together, and, as appropriate, with Northern Rock Plc, in line with their respective responsibilities, and continue to do so.

Reforms

Global issues demand global responses, so the Government are working closely with their partners in the EU and internationally to ensure a coordinated international approach to financial market developments over the last two months. I made proposals to EU finance ministers that we must remain fully engaged, acting with the wider international community, in strengthening arrangements for ensuring financial stability.

I will also be making proposals at the meetings of the G7 and International Monetary Fund next week on the international response.

The UK has a system of depositor protection based on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Under the previous scheme only the first £2,000 of people's savings and 90 per cent. of the next £33,000 were guaranteed. As a first step in improving the level of protection for depositors, the FSA has decided that, with effect from 1 October, the FSCS will cover 100 per cent of deposits up to £35,000.

We must learn the lessons from recent events and reinforce our systems appropriately to meet our objectives of maintaining financial stability, competitiveness and confidence. I will therefore make a statement later this week bringing forward proposals on further reforms to give consumers confidence that their savings and deposits are accessible, safe and secure, and to handle banks facing difficulties.

We will balance any need to make improvements as quickly as we reasonably can with the need to consult as fully as possible. Financial sector regulation will remain effective, proportionate and risk-based, protecting investors and consumers appropriately and ensuring market integrity whilst encouraging innovation and keeping pace with market developments.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Capital Investment in Schools, 2008-11

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): I am making a preliminary announcement of how £21.7 billion capital will be invested in schools between 2008 and 2011. This is investment for buildings and ICT allocated to the Department for Children, Schools and Families as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Good facilities where young people can learn and grow are a vital foundation for a good education. The report "Better Buildings, Better Design, Better Education" (DfES, 2007) showed that the Government's investment programme has already made a difference for pupils around the country. Since1997, over 1,100 schools have been built new or rebuilt, 27,000 classrooms built or improved, and thousands more schools have had real improvements to science laboratories, sports facilities and other building and ICT projects. In 2007-08, around 180 schools will be built new or rebuilt, including the first through "Building Schools for the Future".

The programmes for 2008-11 will drive our modernisation programme still further and faster. Investment will be £6,669 million in 2008-09, £7,024 million in 2009-10 and £8,035 million in 2010-11. Investment by 2010-11 will be seven times higher in real terms than in 1996-97. We are continuing the successful balance of programmes, established in 2004. These are: devolved programmes for every school and local authority; our long-term strategic programmes for primary and secondary education; and targeted programmes for key national investment priorities. I will make a further statement next week to set out the detailed allocations against each of these programmes.

Information and Communication Technology Funding

Most capital programmes can be used to invest in technology equipment. However, given its importance, there will be £837 million over three years specifically for ICT. Within this figure, I am introducing a new harnessing technology grant worth £603 million over three years. This grant replaces the previous disparate grants for technology. It allows schools, and local authorities on their behalf, to invest to meet local priorities in line with the objectives of the Department's e-strategy. There will be further announcements on the remaining ICT funding.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Enterprise Week 2007

The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms): This year, enterprise week runs from 12 to18 November. It is the annual focal point of the "Make Your Mark" campaign—which aims to inspire young people (aged 14-30 years) to be enterprising in the broadest sense, developing a creative, can-do attitude with the skills to spot opportunities and the confidence to pursue them. This is crucial for the future aspirations of millions of young people as well as the economic future of the UK—encouraging business start-ups, social enterprises and development of an enterprising workforce. Wednesday 14 November will be Women's Enterprise Day and Thursday 15 November will be Social Enterprise Day.

This is not simply about encouraging business start-ups and entrepreneurship. The campaign also encourages organisations across the UK to take the opportunity of Enterprise Week to celebrate and recognise the wealth of talent that is evident in every business and to encourage their employees to start thinking about ideas that have a very clear and tangible business benefit.

"Make Your Mark" is funded by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and is led by Enterprise Insight—a campaign coalition founded by the UK's leading business organisations (CBI, British Chambers of Commerce, Institute of Directors, and the Federation of Small Businesses) in partnership with the main enterprise development organisations and working closely with Government Departments, education bodies, Regional Development Agencies and others.

Last year, Enterprise Week generated very large community interest in entrepreneurship. 448,000 people attended the 3,184 events run by 1,410 organisations. Over 20,000 people in 3,704 teams from schools, colleges and workplaces competed simultaneously around the UK in the Make Your Mark Challenge—the week's largest single event. Over 15 per cent. of events were in colleges and universities and social enterprise had a particularly high profile, featuring in over 10 per cent. of all events and media coverage.

Enterprise Week 2007 is expected to be even bigger but it needs Members' continued support. Members are urged to look at the campaign website:

www.makeyourmark.org.uk and consider how the campaign can benefit their constituencies. Active support of Enterprise Week events taking place in constituencies and encouraging the organisations that are running them to register details of their event on the database at: www.enterpriseweek.org will help to ensure that this is the biggest Enterprise Week yet.

DEFENCE

UK Hydrographic Office

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I am today announcing the initial results of a review for the location of the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO).

The UKHO and Met Office have carried out an analysis of the benefits and costs of co-location with the Met Office at Exeter, compared to the other option of developing a new facility in Taunton.

The conclusion of this work is that it is not cost effective to move the UKHO's 900 strong office workforce to Exeter, and in addition any such move would cause substantial disruption to both organisations.

I therefore confirm that the UKHO will remain in the Taunton area and that further work is on going to determine detailed options for the office.

Pattern of Military Low Flying Across the United Kingdom 2006-07

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The amount of low flying training carried out in the UK Low Flying System (UKLFS) during the training year April 2006 to March 2007 was the minimum required for aircrew to reach and maintain their ability to fly at low level. The number of low flying training hours booked in the UKLFS (excluding the rotary wing dedicated user areas, where different booking arrangements apply) was 37,717 hours, a decrease of 6,713 (15 per cent.) hours in comparison with the previous training year. This decrease can be mostly attributed to the high level of operational deployments and immediate training requirements for operations in the close air support role being undertaken at medium level rather than low level. Low flying hours have also reduced from aircraft retiring from service. The level of operational low flying by fixed wing aircraft reduced by some 6 per cent. when compared to the last training year.

The Ministry of Defence is committed to ensuring that low flying training across the UK is spread as widely as is practically possible across the UK so that no single area is too burdened. However, due to a variety of reasons, population distribution and geographical and climate restrictions, it is unavoidable that some areas of the country may experience more activity than others.

I have today placed in the Library of the House a report giving a detailed account of the low flying training that has taken place in the UK Low Flying System for the training year April 2006 to March 2007.

Additional copies of "The Pattern of Military Low Flying Across the UK 2006/07" are available on request from the following address:

Directorate of Air Staff
Complaints and Enquiries Unit
Ministry of Defence
Level 5 Zone H
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A2HB

Alternatively it can be viewed on the MoD's website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/AirSafetyandAviation/LowFlying

Future Army Structure

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I wish to announce today plans to restructure the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) as part of the on-going implementation of the Future Army Structure.

In line with the Defence Logistics Transformation Programme, the Off Platform Repair Capability, which provides intricate repairs from a semi-permanent location, will be aggregated into two Off Platform Repair Companies. These sub-units, together with those assigned to the Logistic Brigades, will come under the command of two Territorial Army (TA) Battalions—101 and 104 Battalion REME.

The battalions will be re-titled 101 and 104 'Force Support Battalions REME' to reflect their increased role. Their present affiliations remain extant. The overall size of the TA is not affected.

While this entails integrating regular companies into battalions that were previously TA, it does not set precedents—elements of the Royal Military Police are similarly structured. Command will be exercised by a Regular Commanding Officer, although sufficient REME reserve command opportunities will still exist elsewhere.

These changes will be effective from 1 April 2008.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Update on Foot and Mouth Disease and Bluetongue

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I would like to make a written statement on this summer's outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Surrey and on Bluetongue. This gives further detail and background to my oral statement of today.

On 3 August Foot and Mouth Disease was confirmed on a cattle farm in Surrey. In line with the contingency

plan, control measures including a national ban on the movement of susceptible animals were put in place immediately.

DEFRA, Animal Health, local authorities, the voluntary sector and other partners across government, alongside the farming community, have worked hard to control and eradicate the disease. Working with the leaders of the farming and food chain industries, we have been able to identify welfare pressures, and on a risk basis allowed animal movements to take place under strict biosecurity conditions.

By 4 August we were able to confirm the strain of the virus as 01-BFS-67. As this strain was not currently circulating in animals, this pointed to the Pirbright laboratory site as a potential source of the outbreak. Therefore, I commissioned the Health and Safety Executive to investigate the potential release from the site, and Professor Brian Spratt to lead a team of experts in a review of biosecurity arrangements.

On 7 September we published the investigation report from the HSE, the review report by Professor Brian Spratt, and the epidemiological report from the National Emergency Epidemiology Group in DEFRA. I have place copies of all these reports in the House Library. They all concluded that the cause of the outbreak was almost certainly the escape of live virus from the Pirbright facility. As the House will be aware there are three parties on the Pirbright site all of which are known to have been using the 01-BFS-67 strain during the period when infection was most likely to have occurred—the Institute for Animal Health, a research institute sponsored and grant aided by the Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council which also owns the land and buildings on the site; and two private companies Merial Animal Health Limited, and Stabilitech.

It cannot be said with complete certainty how the virus escaped from the Pirbright site. However, the reports concluded that the most likely route was accidental release from the drainage system that connects the vaccine production plant to the waste inactivation facility on another part of the site. It is thought that localised flooding alongside construction work may have resulted in effluent escaping from the system coming to the surface, and being transferred on the site.

Whatever the route of escape, it should not have happened and we are determined that it does not happen again. I have accepted all of the recommendations in the reports from the HSE and Professor Spratt, and I have called for a review of the regulatory framework for animal pathogens led by Sir Bill Callaghan. In addition a safety alert has been issued jointly by DEFRA and the HSE to the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens and all animal pathogen category 3 and 4 laboratories, reminding licence holders of their responsibilities. This will be followed by a round of inspections. A rigorous improvement plan has been developed for both Merial, and IAH to be implemented before full operations with live virus can re-commence. In addition a review led by BBSRC is assessing the funding, governance and risk management at IAH. I will keep the House informed of progress with both these reviews.

Epidemiological investigations began immediately when disease was confirmed and indicated that it was highly unlikely that the virus had spread outside of the Surrey area. Under long standing international rules and European Union procedures, zone restrictions must stay in place for at least 30 days after preliminary cleansing and disinfection on the last infected premises and the completion of certain surveillance activity. We observed these procedures and carried out intensive surveillance going beyond Community rules in the area. Given that only two cases had been confirmed (on 3 and 6 August) we proceeded to lift the Surveillance Zone on the 8 September and with the unanimous support of the Commission and member states, trade restrictions were lifted.

Unfortunately, as we now know, there was undetected infection outside the surveillance zone. On 12 September following an investigation by Animal Health, Foot and Mouth Disease was confirmed in a third case in Surrey, and controls were re-imposed.

On 25 September we created two FMD areas in Great Britain, a risk area in the south-east and a lower risk area in the rest of the country where farm to farm movements were permitted under licence. We have subsequently reduced the size of the FMD risk area and will continue to do so based on veterinary risk. On 4 October markets in the low risk area were able to start operating again under stringent biosecurity measures. I visited Skipton market last Thursday and was able to see the difference this will make to the farming industry.

On 3 October the EU confirmed that the export of meat could resume from this Friday (12 October) from Scotland, Wales, and the north and south west of England. This is very welcome news for the farming and food chain industries. We will continue to work with the Commission to increase the areas from which exports can happen.

The outbreak and its continuation has been a tremendous blow to the farming industry, especially given the time of year when the majority of livestock farmers need to move their animals and generate income. The economic impact of this outbreak on the farming community has been very significant and we have listened to the views of industry to take steps to alleviate economic and welfare pressures where ever possible. Indeed, working in partnership with the farming community has been an integral part of our approach to responding to this outbreak.

I am acutely aware of the major challenges facing the livestock sector at this critical time of year. Officials are working very closely with the industry in facilitating the resumption of animal movements on a risk basis to ensure as far as possible the normal working of the industry. The measures we have taken to ease restrictions in the low risk area through farm to farm movements and opening markets have helped and the resumption of exports of meat will be of further assistance not just to those whose products are exported but to the market overall.

As if an outbreak of Foot and Mouth was not enough, on Saturday 22 September the first case of bluetongue was found in East Anglia. This disease affects mainly cattle and sheep and is the same strain which has affected much of North Europe since last summer. Intensive surveillance was carried out to

determine whether this and the subsequent four cases were isolated incidents which could be controlled by culling.

On Friday 28 September the increase in cases indicated that the disease was circulating in our midge population and the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the presence on bluetongue in Great Britain.

Bluetongue is very different from FMD. It is spread by midges, rather than animal to animal, and we cannot stamp it out by slaughtering infected cases. However, we may be able to limit its spread. The cases we have seen so far are in a limited geographical area and seem to result from a single incursion which took place in August when FMD movement controls were in place.

Midge activity should diminish significantly next month, which may halt further spread—at least for the winter. We have therefore consulted a group of stakeholders from the sectors affected and they have agreed that for the time being we should apply the control and protection zone measures to clamp down on further spread.

A clear understanding of the spread of the disease is now crucial to help the industry, with the support of government, to plan what may happen and what the appropriate response would be. That requires farmers in the zones to be vigilant and, for the sake of their industry, to report all new cases, so that we can monitor whether spread is occurring.

Over the coming weeks, the decision on whether to continue this approach will be kept under review with stakeholders. If disease becomes more widespread, our control strategy sets out that we would consider, with the farming industry, extending the bluetongue zones to a larger area. This is a difficult balance between permitting movements across a greater distance but also potentially increasing the risk of further disease spread. I recognise the hardship these controls impose in East Anglia. Our aim is to help implement the control strategy that industry representatives themselves recommend to us. The effects of bluetongue movement controls mean that it is vital that disease control decisions are taken by the industry and not just Ministers. In the longer term, we are also urgently planning with the industry how we could implement a vaccination programme should a vaccine becomes available.

The speed, commitment and professionalism of all those who have responded to these outbreaks has been remarkable, and I am sure the House will join me in expressing thanks for their efforts. The House will also understand the very real pressures faced by the farming community and the distress that this has caused.

I will keep the House updated on progress regarding the control and eradication of both FMD and the control of bluetongue.

Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Joan Ruddock): My noble Friend Lord Rooker announced on 19 September 2007 that the new levy board, which will replace the existing five agricultural and horticultural levy boards on 1 April 2008, will be called the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.

Lord Rooker also announced on the same date that the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), and its sector companies, would be located at a new site at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire from April 2009. The decision to move to Stoneleigh was recommended to DEFRA Ministers, and to ministerial colleagues in the Devolved Administrations, by the shadow board of AHDB.

A business case demonstrating the financial benefits of locating the levy board and its subsidiary companies together at Stoneleigh has been published on the DEFRA website and copies were laid in the Library of the House on 19 September.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The whole country will have been deeply disturbed by recent events in Burma. The brutal suppression of peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations across the country, including beatings, killings and arbitrary detentions of monks and civilians, has been deplorable. The Government are committed to working with all international partners in the search for an inclusive political process to bring reform in Burma.

Historical background

The human rights situation in Burma has long been a cause for concern. The military has ruled Burma since 1962. In 1988, pro-democracy demonstrations were violently suppressed by the military. Multi-party elections in 1990 were overwhelmingly won by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy. However, the military regime refused to implement these results.

Aung San Suu Kyi has remained under house arrest since she and her supporters were attacked in May 2003. The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner has spent 12 out of the last 17 years under house arrest.

The military regime continues to rule by decree and controls every aspect of society. It severely restricts freedom of expression, information, assembly and movement. Members of opposition parties are subject to harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention. Before the recent demonstrations there were already some 1,100 political prisoners in Burma. Forced labour, arbitrary killings, the use of child soldiers and systematic rape, unlawful detention and displacement have all been commonplace.

The human rights situation deteriorated in 2006 with further harassment of political opposition and attacks on ethnic groups.

Recent Developments

In the middle of August popular protests began against rises in fuel prices of up to 500 per cent.—a measure that had severe implications for the already impoverished Burmese people. The protests were swiftly followed by arrests of pro-democracy activists. The UK condemned the actions of the regime and

called for the immediate release of those detained. I expressed the UK's solidarity with the protesters and warned the regime that it would be judged by how it responded to this peaceful movement.

In late September the demonstrations grew rapidly in size, led by large numbers of Buddhist monks. These demonstrations were peaceful and orderly. On 20 September Professor Ibrahim Gambari, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, briefed the UN Security Council in informal session, a development which I welcomed publicly, while expressing concern for the peaceful demonstrators. On 22 September demonstrators were permitted to walk past the house in which Aung San Suu Kyi is being held under house arrest. As the crisis developed, the Prime Minister and I issued a number of statements and spoke to many of our international counterparts urging against repression and calling for reconciliation. After the Prime Minister had written to the UN Secretary General and the President of the EU expressing concern, the EU issued a statement on 25 September warning that it would not hesitate to impose strengthened measures against the Burmese regime if they resorted to violence; and there were further informal Security Council discussions on 26 September.

As we now know, the response of the regime—which it tried, unsuccessfully, to hide from the outside world - was one of violence and brutality. The security forces turned their guns on unarmed demonstrators. We do not know for certain how many people were killed but we fear it is many more than the regime has admitted. Monks and opposition leaders have been beaten and arrested. Many remain in detention and reports suggest that they are being held in appalling conditions. Through the indiscriminate use of force, the regime has suppressed the protests and forced people off the streets.

The crisis is continuing in Burma. There are a number of urgent questions the regime must answer. They must provide precise information on those who have been killed or injured; and on those who have been detained—their identities, whereabouts, and the conditions in which they are being held. The regime must immediately accede to the requests for urgent access for the Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, Professor Pinheiro. And they must engage with Ambassador Gambari in developing an inclusive political process for reform.

UK action since crisis began

UK action has focused on three specific areas.

First, the UK has been working actively with the international community, and with Burma's neighbours in particular, to put pressure on the regime to end the violence, release political detainees, including those arrested for peacefully expressing their views in the recent protests, ensure full respect for human rights and work towards genuine reconciliation with all the relevant political and ethnic parties in Burma. This work remains a high priority for the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, other FCO Ministers and the entire diplomatic network.

Second, we have been pursuing urgent action in the United Nations. The UK pressed for the Security Council discussions that took place on 20 and 26 September and most recently, in formal session, on 5 October, and we pressed for the visit by Professor Gambari, to Burma to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi and the military leaders. We look forward to a return visit by Ambassador Gambari.

The UK also pushed hard for a Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, which, with strong UK involvement and support, passed a Resolution on 2 October deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators and agreeing to send the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, Professor Pinheiro, on an urgent mission to Burma to report on the human rights situation

Third, with our EU partners we have been working to strengthen sanctions against the regime. This will continue over the next week in the run up to the General Affairs Council on 15 October.

Future direction

We have three clear objectives, building on the work we have already been doing. The Prime Minister re-emphasised these objectives when he met Burma activists on Saturday 6 October—the day of global action on Burma.

First, the international spotlight must be kept firmly on Burma. We will continue to highlight the appalling recent events in Burma and use our diplomatic network to keep our international partners focussed on the need to address urgently the ongoing human rights abuses there. On 6 October the Prime Minister drew attention to a compilation of material by FCO officials, drawing together information on recent human rights violations in Burma from media, eyewitness and diplomatic sources. This can be found on the front page of the FCO Website: http://www.fco.gov.uk

Second, the regime must understand that it cannot turn the clock back to the dire situation before the recent demonstrations. We welcomed Professor Gambari's clear statement on 5 October that the status quo ante was both unacceptable and unsustainable. Recent events have demonstrated clearly that this would pose unacceptable risks to Burma's long-suffering population and to the region.

At its meeting on 5 October, members of the United Nations Security Council sent a clear signal that a process of national reconciliation leading to democracy, full respect for human rights and the rule of law is the only way forward. That process must involve Aung San Suu Kyi and leaders of the democratic opposition and ethnic groups. And it will need to have international legitimacy. We continue to support urgent and active UN engagement to pursue such a process, and are pressing for an early return visit by Professor Gambari to Burma.

Third, we will galvanise and mobilise international support to put pressure on the regime. In addition to further engagement by the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary General, we also need all those with influence on the regime to use it to press for positive change. China and other key nations such as Thailand and India can play a crucial role. We appreciate the efforts China has already made in support of Professor Gambari's recent visit to Burma and we hope China will continue to use its influence on the regime to push for genuine dialogue with the political opposition. My recent meetings with Foreign Ministers of all three countries have provided the opportunity to explain the priority we give to this issue.

We expect the European Union General Affairs and External Relations Council to announce a package of tougher measures against Burma on 15 October. We will push for these to include a ban on future investment, on top of the sanctions against individuals and their assets and measures aimed at specific commodities. These will be designed to have the greatest impact on those whose behaviour we are trying to change - the regime and those that benefit from their policies.

Support for the people of Burma

If the Burmese regime changes course and shows it is willing genuinely to work for reconciliation, democracy and poverty reduction, an economic package involving the UN, International Financial Institutions and bilateral donors could be offered. This could include the establishment of a multi-donor Trust Fund to support health, education and other key sectors; support for debt relief; financial and technical support for democratic elections; an investment conference to attract foreign direct investment; trade measures to facilitate Burma's entry into the global trading system, support for civil society including the development of a free media as well as continued humanitarian relief

Meanwhile, in response to PM's discussion with the activists he met on 6 October, the UK has announced an additional £1 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs in Burma arising from this latest episode of gross misrule. This will help ensure that vulnerable people do not suffer because of the actions of the regime.

HEALTH

Draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): Today we have laid before Parliament the Government response to the Joint Committee's report on the Human Tissue and Embryos (Draft) Bill (Cm 7209).

On 17 May 2007, the Government published draft legislation to revise and update the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990. This was set out in the Human Tissue and Embryos (Draft) Bill.

The Government welcomed the establishment of a joint committee of both Houses to undertake pre-legislative scrutiny. The Government are grateful for the Committee's report and have accepted several of the key recommendations. We believe that an improved Bill will result from this process.

The Command Paper sets out the Government's response to all 31 recommendations and is available in the Library.

NHS Injury Benefits

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The scheme administrators have identified shortcomings with the administration of the NHS Injury Benefits Scheme since 1972. The review identified that:

between 1985 and 1998 in some cases the incorrect eligibility criteria has been used;

since 1972 injury benefits have been inappropriately adjusted to take account of changes in the rate of DWP benefits; and

since 2002 some decisions have been made without appropriate legal authority.

The Pensions Division of the NHS Business Services Authority have instituted corrective action and all those known to be affected will be notified that their claims will be reviewed. People who have been underpaid will receive the money they are due and those who have been overpaid will not be expected to pay the money back. Once corrections have been made to known cases, an advertising campaign will be undertaken to identify individuals who may have been inappropriately advised against making claims.

The Government take very seriously the difficulties that have been identified with the administration of the NHS Injury Benefit Scheme over many years. They support the action of the scheme administrators in identifying the historic issues and in undertaking corrective action.

Recruitment to Medical Training

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Sir John Tooke announced the results of his inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) this morning. We would like to thank Sir John Tooke and his review group for investing so much time and expertise in providing recommendations for the future of medical training for 2009 and beyond. We will consider Sir John's findings carefully.

Recruitment to Medical Training in 2008

Following a discussion document and feedback from stakeholders, the new MMC programme board, whose members include the British Medical Association, the Academy of Royal Colleges and NHS Employers, has recommended changes to junior doctor training and recruitment for 2008. We have accepted its recommendations which are as follows:

recruitment and selection will be run by local processes that are very similar to the second round of recruitment this year and recruitment in previous years. It will be run locally by deaneries, who will advertise for their own posts and use their own application forms, shortlisting criteria and scoring systems. They will also interview, select, and make offers;

a short set of national principles, similar to those used for the second round of recruitment this year, will provide a policy framework for the local processes of recruitment in 2008;

recruitment for a number of specialties will be run nationally where there are well-tested, successful national processes of recruitment. These include General Practice and Obstetrics and Gynaecology;

there will be more than one entry point into speciality training each year with start dates at different points throughout the year;

there will not be a national IT system for applications to training for hospital specialities in 2008. Work will continue on developing the national IT system for use in 2009. National IT systems will continue to be used for the Foundation Programme and GP recruitment; and

there will be pilots of selection centres and invigilated, machine markable tests for shortlisting for entry level posts (Specialist Training Level 1).

Recruitment to Medical Training in 2007.

The previously announced employment guarantee covers the period 1 August to 31 October while doctors continue to compete for posts in round 2 of this year's recruitment. There are about 1,000 additional training posts being created for the end of round 2 as a transitional safety net for junior doctors. The transitional training posts will be filled in November and December. We have therefore decided to extend the employment guarantee to 31 December 2007, when recruitment to the transition training posts will have been completed.

MTAS Security Investigation

Following the security breach on 25 April further investigations have indicated that the personal data were accessed by a user accessing the information through the Imperial College London network. The Department understood that a continuing police investigation would result in serious invasive actions into Channel 4 and Imperial College and constitute a disproportionate response. The college has volunteered its complete co-operation in the matter. It has been supplied with the evidence and is carrying out its own investigations into the conduct of the user. The college has assured the Department that it is treating this as a serious issue and dealing with it in a proportionate and appropriate manner. Consequently, the police are taking no further action at this time.

International Medical Graduates

A consultation to help formulate policy on the place of international medical graduates (IMGs) in recruitment to specialist training for 2008 has been launched today. The consultation has been placed in the Library.

Adult Mental Health Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): A set of principles and high level indicators for Adult Mental Health Medium Secure Services was published by the Department in August 2007 and has been placed in the Library. A summary document is available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

This set of documents provides best practice guidance to support the process of commissioning safe and clinically appropriate adult medium secure services across the NHS and Independent Sector. The principles are supported by high level indicators which commissioners can use to describe to providers the standard of security and care they wish to commission. The documents have been developed with the assistance of specialised commissioners and are supported by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

This documentation defines and clearly describes what a medium secure service should provide in terms of care and the appropriate security standards. Issuing a national set of principles for Medium Secure Services should substantially strengthen the commissioning function.

Modernising mental health services remains one of this Government's core national priorities. Medium secure mental health services are a key element of the forensic mental health system. For patients, these services are an important part of an integrated pathway, when they need care and treatment in a secure environment. The number of patients who will need this sort of treatment is only a small proportion of patients with mental health problems. However, it is essential for those who do need this treatment that they receive compassionate, beneficial and safe services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Juxtaposed Control Zones, Eurostar Terminals

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): I am today announcing changes to juxtaposed control zones for the new Eurostar Terminals at St. Pancras and Ebbsfleet International. Juxtaposed controls have been highly successful in reducing the dangerous and illegal crossing of the Channel. The changes in location of the control zone from Waterloo to St. Pancras and a new zone at Ebbsfleet International will take place when Eurostar moves its operations in November. In line with the Government's strategic objective to strengthen our borders, this will allow us to continue work jointly with our French and Belgian partners to protect our borders against the threats from illegal immigration.

The Sangatte Protocol 1991 and the Additional Protocol to the Sangatte Protocol 2000, given effect by the Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) Order 1993, provide the basis for juxtaposed controls at Eurostar terminals for trains travelling between France and the UK. A tripartite agreement between France, Belgium and the UK of 1993, a protocol to that agreement and administrative arrangements made pursuant to that instrument in 2004 provide the basis for juxtaposed controls in respect of trains travelling between Belgium and the UK (via France) via the channel tunnel. These are given effect by the Channel Tunnel (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1994. Secondary legislation is to be laid before Parliament to make the necessary provision for the new control zones at St Pancras and Ebbsfleet International and to remove the control zone at Waterloo International. Copies of the amended international agreements will be available in the House Libraries.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has an essential role to play in delivering protection and assistance to refugees, ensuring an effective response to the needs of people displaced from their homes by conflict, and finding and promoting durable solutions to their plight.

DFID has agreed a joint strategy with Canada and Denmark to support UNHCR over 2007 to 2009. The strategy supports UNHCR's corporate objectives and

highlights five strategic priorities: emergency response and preparedness; durable solutions; Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); age, gender and diversity; and results-based management and evaluation. This Joint Organisation Strategy (JOS) was designed in consultation with Whitehall colleagues.

DFID will provide UNHCR £19 million core funding in 2007. Progress against the JOS objectives will be monitored through review meetings supplemented by donor missions.

EU Development Ministers Informal Meeting, 21 and 22 September 2007

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I represented the UK at the EU Development Ministers' Informal Meeting in Madeira on 21-22 September 2007.

The UK contributed to momentum in the right direction on the humanitarian, security and trade agendas, as well as securing support for the PM's MDG Call for Action

Friday 21 September

Improving the EU response to Fragile Situations

The Portuguese Minister for Development, Joao Cravinho and Development Commissioner Louis Michel introduced this item, stressing the need to work differently in fragile contexts and to focus on prevention of violent conflict. The Minister stressed the importance of stability in helping to improve progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Picking up this point, I asked for support for the Prime Minister's Call for Action on the MDGs. In this context and others, the initiative was favourably received. In relation to dealing with fragility, along with some other Ministers, I stressed the importance of basing plans on the OECD Development Assistance Committee guidelines. I advocated the importance of learning lessons from experience with new instruments developed to fit fragile contexts, such as multi-donor Trust Funds.

Security and Development

The Portuguese Defence Minister (a former Development Minister), Mr Nuno Severiano Teixeira, gave a presentation on improving coherence between development and security policies. While recognising the challenges of differing time-scales and priorities, he advocated closer working, including shared management of resources and cross-departmental teams. I was able to share the positive experience of the UK with the cross-departmental Conflict Pools and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit. A number of Member States mentioned concerns about potential diversion of official development assistance to cover "military" expenditure. Italy is in the process of passing a new development law which should provide better protection than at present. I spoke about the UK's International Development Act in this regard. I drew attention to the importance of building capacity in the UN and the African Union for effective peace-building as well as peace-keeping. I also reminded participants of the importance of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Humanitarian Aid

Minister Cravinho introduced this item on behalf of the Presidency, which aims to have an EU Humanitarian Consensus to match the 2005 Development Consensus as a commitment to best practice. While acknowledging the value of the Consensus and the good work of ECHO, I pressed for much stronger acknowledgement of the pre-eminence of the UN in co-ordination of responses to humanitarian crises and a clearer commitment to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund. I drew attention to the importance of the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence where military or armed police personnel and equipment were deployed.

International Development Architecture

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Gutierres, a former Prime Minister of Portugal, gave a presentation encouraging Europe to take a leading role as a "rational centre" in the global development scene, pushing for co-ordination. He acknowledged the importance of UN reform and pointed to the limitations of the International Financial Institutions. In his view three of the main challenges facing the international community were security, migration and climate change.

Saturday 22 September

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs):

Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson opened the discussion of Economic Partnership Agreements amongst EU Development Ministers. He painted a mixed picture of progress. He highlighted the unprecedented generosity of the EU's offer to the African, Caribbean and Pacific partner countries, most recently with new Rules of Origin. He advised Ministers not to heed calls to extend the deadline for deals, arguing that it would be illegal under WTO rules. I acknowledged the generosity of the offer, while suggesting that even more liberal Rules of Origin could help the negotiations. A goods-only "framework" EPA offered the best prospects for breaking deadlock. Along with other Ministers, I stressed that the ACP must not be left worse off if it proved impossible to reach a deal.

JUSTICE

Review of the Use of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 12 July I announced a review of restraint in juvenile secure settings in the House and, on 26 July, I set out the broad terms of reference for the review. The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have joint responsibility for the review. My right hon. Friend the Member for Stretford and Urmston (Beverley Hughes) is the lead Minister for DCSF.

My right hon. Friend and I are pleased to announce that we have appointed Andrew Williamson CBE and Peter Smallridge CBE as independent joint chairs of the review.

This is a very important and sensitive review and we warmly welcome the skills and experience that Mr. Williamson and Mr. Smallridge will bring to it. They have strong backgrounds in management in the public sector, having both been Directors of Social Services in large local authorities where they had responsibilities both for services for children and for secure provision. More recently they have been involved in the NHS, where they currently both chair NHS Trusts. They both have considerable experience of participating in and chairing reviews in the NHS and in Social Services. They also have a track record of working together at many levels, including joint working for the Department for International Development in developing child protection services in Eastern Europe.

The chairs will be considering whether any further issues should be brought within the broad terms of reference of the review and will decide soon the process for calling for evidence and for consulting with interested parties. We know that the chairs wish the review to be open and transparent and they are expecting to consult widely.

My right hon. Friend and I have asked the chairs to report to Ministers within six months of the date of this announcement.

Judicial Appointments

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Constitutional Reform Act 2005 makes provision for a new appointments process for Justices of the United Kingdom Supreme Court. The Act brings these provisions into effect once the Court is operational. The new arrangements aim to increase public confidence in the appointments process by creating greater transparency of appointments and improving competition for these positions. I believe that it is sensible to adopt the new process from now on. This is because those newly appointed to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords will spend the majority of their career in the Supreme Court.

I will therefore adopt Section 8 of the Constitutional Reform Act on a voluntary basis, as any new appointments made will help to determine the character of the Court. This decision does not impact upon other provisions within the Act that will come into force when the Supreme Court opens for business in October 2009.

A selection commission will be formed when vacancies arise. This will be composed of the President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court and members of the appointment bodies for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. All new judges appointed to the Supreme Court after its creation will not be Members of the House of Lords; they will become Justices of the Supreme Court.

Land Registration Rules

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Land Registry will today launch a formal consultation exercise to seek views on proposals to amend the Land Registration Rules 2003, (with consequent amendments to the Commonhold (Land Registration) Rules 2004) following its first comprehensive review of the existing Rules which came into force on 13 October 2003. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available on the internet at http://www.consultations.landregistry.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/system/listConsultations?type=0

The proposals are intended to improve and simplify practice for the benefit of customers and, where possible, reduce the administrative burden on those customers. Many of the proposed amendments relate to existing Rules and practice but some are new. There are proposals aimed at helping the fight against fraud, including obtaining confirmation as to the identity of the parties to a transfer, lease or charge (mortgage).

The proposals reflect Land Registry's desire to create the best conveyancing and land registration system possible and to develop legislation, processes and practices that meet the needs of both property professionals and property owners.

Subject to the outcome of the proposals, the advice and assistance of the Rule Committee and the completion of the necessary amendments to the Rules, it is anticipated that the changes would come into force in November 2008.

Freedom of Information

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): On 24 September 2007, I deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000 -Statistics on implementation in central Government. Q2 - April – June" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the Quarterly Monitoring Statistics Report analysing the performance of central Government in the third full year of Freedom of Information.

NORTHERN IRELAND

North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have today placed in both Libraries of the House papers relating to decisions that have been taken during the period 25 April - 5 May 2007 which relate to the North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd under the terms of the Exchange of Notes of 19 November 2002 (Cmnd 5708).

Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have today published the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel combined Corporate Plan (2007-2010) and Business Plan (2007-08). The Corporate Plan sets out the long-term strategic goals for the Panel over the three-year period and the

Business Plan sets out the Panel's key objectives and performance targets for the coming year.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

European Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): I attended the transport session of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, held in Luxembourg on 2 October. The Portuguese Minister for Public Works, Transport, and Communications, Mr Mario Lino, was in the chair.

At the June Council, Transport Ministers agreed a Resolution calling on the Commission to submit proposals on ways to take forward the Galileo satellite navigation programme, following acknowledgement by that Council that the PPP process had failed. Accordingly, on 19 September the Commission issued a Communication dealing with costs, risks, procurement and governance, together with a proposal for amendment of the Galileo financing regulation and provision for funds to be transferred from the margin available under the Agriculture and Administration budget headings, to fund Galileo in the Competitiveness heading (1A).

With insufficient time for Member States to give detailed consideration to the Communication or to seek the views of national parliaments, discussion on Galileo was confined to an exchange of views. In the exchange, there was wide support for the Galileo project and for reaching an integrated decision by the end of this year. The Council Conclusions reflect these points. In the discussion I made clear the UK's strongly held view that the project should offer value for money for the Community, our opposition to a revision of the financial perspectives, and our firm view that, if the Community decides to proceed with a public procurement of Galileo, any additional funding should be found by reprioritisation within heading 1A.

Following its agreement in principle in June, the Council adopted a Resolution to establish an EU Regional Data Centre for Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) of ships. This will create a single EU system for ship tracking, in line with the requirements of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). A decision was required prior to the participation of EU Member States in the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) meeting, starting on 3 October. I welcomed the establishment of the data centre, while noting some remaining concerns on system integration and cost-sharing. We also presented these concerns in writing. A UK proposal to set up an ad-hoc working group to address these issues was supported by the Presidency, the Commission, and a number of Member States.

The Council reached a general approach on the draft Directive on road infrastructure safety management. The text of the General Approach is acceptable to the UK.

The Council reached a General Approach on each of two proposals on rail interoperability and safety which have been negotiated together. They are a Directive on interoperability of the Community rail system, combining three previous Directives, and a directive amending the 2004 Directive on rail safety. The General Approach texts on these two proposals are acceptable to the UK and successfully deal with our original concerns on establishing a clearer approach as to how the extension to the whole of the Member States rail system will be taken forward.

The Presidency and the Commission reported on the outcome of the 36th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in Montreal. The outcome on emissions trading had been disappointing. The Commission wished to examine possible further action, either within ICAO or at the forthcoming UN negotiations in December, and suggested that the Transport Council return to this issue at its November meeting.

The Council adopted a decision giving a mandate for the Commission to open negotiations on a comprehensive aviation agreement with Canada. The terms of the mandate are acceptable to the UK.

The Council adopted Conclusions on the Commission's Communication on "An Action plan for airport capacity, efficiency and safety in Europe". The Conclusions were acceptable to the UK.

Under AOB, the Commission presented its Green Paper on Urban Transport, entitled "Towards a new culture for urban mobility". The Commission noted the consultation deadline of 15 March 2008 and the intention to publish an Action Plan in autumn 2008.

I have written to the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee, House of Commons and the Chairman of the Select Committee on the European Union, House of Lords detailing the outcome of the session. Copies of these letters have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Trunk Roads

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The policy of transferring to local highway authorities the responsibility for trunk roads that are considered to be non-core was first set out in the White Paper "A New Deal for Transport", published in July 1998 (Cm 3950).

Following advice from the Highways Agency, informed by discussions with the relevant authorities, I have now decided that the following routes should be removed from the announced detrunking programme and remain part of the strategic road network, maintained and operated by the Highways Agency:

M32 (Bristol to M4 Junction 19);

A36/A46 (from M4 near Bristol to M27 near Southampton); and

M65 (Junctions 8 to 10).

I have written to the appropriate local highway authorities and relevant Members of Parliament, outlining the reasons for my decision. Copies of the letters to the Members of Parliament have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 9 October 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning

The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper): Today my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his pre-Budget report that the Government intend to legislate in the forthcoming Planning Reform Bill for a new statutory planning charge to enable councils to capture greater levels of planning gain to support new infrastructure and housing. This investment will be in addition to section 106 agreements, the £1.7 billion targeted infrastructure investment to support growing areas from the Communities and Local Government comprehensive spending review, and the additional mainstream support for infrastructure investment through programmes such as Crossrail. This statement sets out further details of the new statutory planning charge.

This Government believe that everyone deserves a decent home at an affordable price. Homes are the building blocks of our communities and are essential to ensure a sustainable future for the next generation. That is why the Housing Green Paper published in July 2007 set out ambitious plans for delivering three million new homes by 2020.

For new homes and communities to be sustainable, we also need to invest in the infrastructure needed to support the people who live in them—transport, hospitals, schools and community spaces. Through the planning system local communities can secure a contribution to this infrastructure from developers, via section 106 agreements. But only a small proportion of all developments currently contribute to the costs of infrastructure in this way. The current system is also limited in the extent to which it is able to mitigate the cumulative impacts of development on infrastructure, and local authority use of these powers varies significantly. Therefore a new mechanism which properly addresses these concerns is required.

The Government also believe that it is right and fair that local communities should benefit more from the uplifts in land value arising from planning permission to finance the infrastructure needed to support housing growth. This is why, as part of our response to Kate Barker's review of Housing Supply, published in 2004, the Government accepted her recommendation in principle and consulted on proposals for a PGS. In the Housing Green Paper we also asked stakeholders to put forward alternative approaches for capturing more planning gain for consideration.

The Government welcome the constructive and focused way in which stakeholders have engaged with this challenge since the Green Paper. This has included a clear recognition on the part of the development industry that it is right that they should contribute more to the costs of infrastructure needed to support housing delivery. Many in the industry—including the British Property Federation, the Home Builders Federation, London First and the Major Developers Group have supported proposals for planning charges, building on the current section 106 approach and the tariff models developed by Milton Keynes and other areas. The Local Government Association has also supported a similar approach.

Following these representations, and others, we have concluded that the best way at this stage to increase contributions towards infrastructure alongside greater house building is to take forward the Housing Green Paper option of a statutory planning charge.

Compared with the existing system, we believe our proposals will:

- Capture more planning gain to finance additional investment in local and strategic infrastructure, while preserving incentives to develop.
- Make the planning charge-setting process simpler and more certain. By giving a clear basis on which to set a planning charge to support the delivery of planned infrastructure,
- Provide a fairer means of securing contributions from developers for infrastructure. At present, infrastructure benefits for local communities are typically secured from major developments only.
- Encourage regions and local authorities to plan positively for housing and economic growth and for the infrastructure needed to deliver it, and, in the plan context, to decide priorities and detailed charging arrangements which reflect local and regional needs and circumstances.
- The Government's approach builds on the strengths of the current system and experience from areas where a form of charging is already being applied. We therefore propose to include provisions to introduce statutory planning charges in the forthcoming Planning Reform Bill, and we will not be introducing a Planning Gain Supplement Bill in the next parliamentary session. We will keep under close review the development and operation of statutory planning charges to make sure that they achieve our aims of increasing investment in infrastructure alongside supporting new development.

These provisions will empower local authorities to apply standard planning charges for all new development in their areas to support infrastructure delivery. The main features of the planning charge will be as follows:

- Subject to low de minimis thresholds, residential and commercial development will be liable to pay the planning charge.
- Where appropriate local authorities will be able to use planning charges to supplement a negotiated agreement. Negotiated agreements will still be necessary to secure affordable housing and to address costs related to the specific development site.
- Planning charges should be based on a costed assessment of the infrastructure requirements arising specifically out of the development contemplated by the development plan for the area (which comprises the regional spatial strategy and the local development framework), taking account of land values.
- Planning charges should include contributions towards the costs of infrastructure of sub-regional and regional importance identified in development plans.
- Planning charge policies in development plans will be tested through the development plan process, in consultation with developers, stakeholders and the community to ensure they support the viability of new development and levels of new housing required.

The level of support which both the development industry and the local government community have now offered for increasing resources through a planning charge approach is very welcome and provides an important basis on which to implement the proposals successfully. We will be in touch with the development industry and local government very shortly to discuss how we can best work with them and other stakeholders as we prepare the new legislation, and put new planning charges in place.

As with other policies, once the planning charge has been introduced the Government will carry out an evaluation to ensure that its objectives—a step change in infrastructure provision to deliver more homes in more sustainable communities, funded by a fair contribution from development—have been achieved.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iraq: Assistance to Locally Employed Staff

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): On 8 August the Prime Minister announced a review of the Government's assistance to our locally engaged staff in Iraq. The Defence Secretary, Home Secretary, Secretary of State for International Development, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and I have now agreed on the elements of a scheme.

Locally engaged Iraqi staff working for our armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq have made an invaluable contribution, in uniquely difficult circumstances, to the UK's efforts to support security, stability and development in the new Iraq. We are hugely grateful to them for their contribution, which continues to be essential to the delivery of our mission in Iraq.

In recognition of that, we have decided to offer those staff, on an ex gratia basis, assistance which goes above and beyond the confines of what is lawfully or contractually required. Assistance will be based on objective criteria, taking into account determinable and relevant factors. It is offered in recognition of the service by these courageous Iraqis in direct support of HMG's efforts to help the Iraqi Government and people build a peaceful, stable and prosperous Iraq.

The assistance announced by the Prime Minister yesterday will allow Iraqi staff, including but not limited to interpreters, currently working[1] for HMG in Iraq, who have attained 12 months or more continuous service, to apply for a one-off package of financial assistance of between six and 12 months salary, depending on length of service, to meet the costs of relocation for themselves and their dependants in Iraq or the region, if they are made redundant or have to resign from their job because of what we judge to be exceptional circumstances. Alternatively, these staff will be able to apply for exceptional leave to enter the UK, or to avail themselves of the opportunity for resettlement in the UK through the UK's Gateway refugee resettlement programme, provided that they meet the criteria for the programme, including that they satisfy UNHCR that they meet the criteria of the 1951 convention and need resettlement.

In addition, interpreters/translators and other Iraqi staff serving in similarly skilled or professional roles necessitating the regular use of written or spoken English, who formerly worked for HMG in Iraq, will be able to apply for assistance for themselves and their dependants provided that they satisfactorily completed a minimum of 12 months service, and they were in our employ on or after 1 January 2005. Former staff meeting those criteria will be able to apply for a one-off package of financial assistance similar to that available for serving staff, or to avail themselves of the opportunity for resettlement in the UK through the Gateway programme as set out above.

This assistance will principally apply to Iraqi nationals who meet the eligibility criteria set out above, and who work, or have worked, in Iraq in the following capacities:

as direct employees of the UK armed forces or the Ministry of Defence;

on letters of appointment from the British embassy in Baghdad or the British embassy offices in Basra and the Kurdistan region;

as direct employees of DFID and the British Council.

In addition, we are considering what assistance may be provided to a limited number of contracted staff meeting the eligibility criteria who have worked in particularly close association with us as an integral part of HMG programmes, projects and operations in Iraq.

We will announce further details, including on how eligible staff may apply, before the end of the month.

[1]defined as those working for our civilian missions or armed forces on or after 8 August 2007, the date on which the review of policy was announced.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council 1 and 2 October

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The informal Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Lisbon on the 1 and 2 October 2007. The Home Secretary, the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following main issues were discussed at the Council and, since it was an informal Council, no formal decisions were taken.

The first session opened with an introduction to the new counter-terrorism co-ordinator, Gilles de Kerchove. The presidency stressed that he would need to be a key link between the Commission and the Council. The Commission introduced the legislative package it was planning to present in November which would include an amended framework decision on terrorism, work on explosives, and an EU system for the exchange of passenger name records.

The UK thanked member states for their support in tackling terrorism in the UK and acknowledged that terrorism was an EU-wide problem. The UK and others highlighted the importance of data sharing and using databases to support law enforcement to strengthen the

EU's security. The UK supported targeted information exchange. The presidency concluded that preventing radicalisation needed joining up of all information sources. There would be further discussion at EU level.

In a discussion on deportation with assurances, the UK emphasised that deportation was an important tool, but exposed a difficult balance: ensuring we could deport an individual deemed a risk to our security while protecting that individual's rights. The UK fully endorsed the use of technology, for example CCTV, in combating terrorism.

The presidency subsequently introduced its paper on the importance of automatic border crossing systems and the Schengen information system. The Commission expanded on this paper by stating that existing visa systems were outdated and, in the medium-term, the EU should look to implement a comprehensive entry/exit system. This was broadly welcomed.

The UK welcomed work on inter-operable systems noting that the use of screening technology had facilitated over 1,200 arrests in the UK. Iris recognition helped ease passage through airports, and gave confidence in identity. The UK advocated sharing such technology since it would enhance member state security.

Member states agreed to use new technologies in border control, with the right protections. Frontex was an essential tool for border management and there was agreement that biometric passports were needed in the EU, and around the world.

On e-justice, member states confirmed that work should continue on the basis of the Council's decision in June. While electronic means of working should be encouraged, there should not be any legislation making the use of e-justice methods compulsory. Rather, work should continue on the basis of the sharing of best practice. It was agreed that the proposed e-justice portal should include information on missing and abducted children.

Child protection was discussed on the second day of the Council. The UK highlighted the issue of monitoring sex offenders across the EU. While acknowledging offenders right to re-build their lives, liberty needed to be balanced with the risk of re-offending through proportionate monitoring measures. However some member states had their concerns. The UK supported any practical measures to track missing children, and suggested a child abduction taskforce, to look at solutions across the EU.

Member states recommended efficient co-operation and working with relevant national authorities, EU bodies and agencies allowing for joint and co-ordinated work on the prevention and fight against child abuse. Member states agreed that co-operation and exchange of information between relevant national authorities and Europol and Eurojust must be reinforced. EU Ministers accepted that promoting a legislative solution was not the only answer to the problem but that the adoption of concrete measures at EU level led to effective and immediate improvement of child protection.

Member states agreed to interconnect (already existing in some member states) national child alert systems. This could be implemented without any legislation, complementing co-operation between relevant national authorities. It was agreed that crimes committed against children via the internet should be condemned and punished; the Commission was asked to present proposals for measures designed to improve prevention and the fight against those actions. EU Ministers recommended that European and international legislative instruments to fight cybercrime committed against minors should be ratified and enforced by member states. EU Ministers strongly agreed that the promotion of children's rights and the protection of children must constitute a priority in the context of external relations, namely with the EU's neighbour countries.

Police Performance Assessments 2006-07

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): Today I have published "Police Performance Assessments 2006-07" covering the 43 individual police forces in England and Wales. This publication has been brought together by the Home Office's police and crime standards directorate (PCSD) and Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) and this is the third year that such assessments have been published. Copies will be placed in the House Library and in the Vote Office. The publication of these assessments represents an important part of the Government's reform programme for public services. We want to see policing which is visible, accessible and responsive.

As in last year's report, tables have been used to provide an understandable summary of performance for each of the 43 police forces in key performance areas. Forces are assigned the clear judgments "excellent", "good, "fair" and "poor". The publication is complemented by comprehensive information (including data and technical definitions) available via the Home Office website at: http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance.

However, this year's assessments reflect new arrangements for inspection. Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) has moved to a programme of risk-based inspection, focusing less on high volume, low risk issues and probing instead those areas which pose a major risk of harm to individuals. The results of this new inspection programme are included within the assessment, providing a rounded assessment of policing across England and Wales.

For this year, the focus of inspection has been on protecting the most vulnerable, and on ensuring the successful delivery of our programme of neighbourhood policing. Results for these inspection areas are included within the assessment for each force. Our progress towards the national roll-out of neighbourhood policing was marked when we achieved our target to recruit 16,000 police community support officers, providing valuable local resources to build relationships and address problems in local communities.

These assessments are intended to provide the public with a clear view on how well policing is being delivered in their area. In addition to these assessments, police authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide local information to every household in their communities on the policing priorities for their area, and to explain who is responsible and accountable for their delivery, as well as reporting on how effectively these policing priorities have been discharged.

This framework ensures that local police forces can be held to account for delivery of key services to local communities. It also provides a mechanism for improving performance, and has enabled forces—with the support of their police authorities—to identify strengths and weakness across their responsibilities, thereby reducing the need for external inspections, reviews or other interventions.

As we move forward—and as noted in the Home Office reform action plan—the assessments will be developed further into a broader framework for crime, drugs and policing. 2006-07 is the first transition year towards this new framework, which is planned for introduction in 2008-09. This broader framework will be the means by which we assess not just the success of the police service, but also the way in which police and other local delivery agencies work together in partnership to make communities safer.

TRANSPORT

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today laid in the House the draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007, together with its associated impact assessment and explanatory memorandum. Subject to the approval of both Houses, this order is due to give effect to the Government's renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) and to establish the Office of the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA).

The RTFO is due to lead to a significant reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases from the transport sector by increasing the use of biofuels. The Government have sought stakeholders' views on the detailed design of the RTFO in two separate consultation exercises during the course of 2007, and has made a number of changes to the order and impact assessment to take account of the comments received.

The impact assessment which I am publishing today explains that the Government have revised downwards their estimate of the carbon savings that the RTFO is likely to deliver, and have revised upwards their estimate of the total costs of the policy. The total net carbon savings associated with the RTFO are now estimated at around 2.6 to 3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (700,000 to 800,000 tonnes of carbon) per annum in 2010-11, as opposed to earlier forecasts which suggested that they should be in the region of 3.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (1 million tonnes of carbon) per annum. These changes have been made to reflect more accurately the marginal impact that biofuels may have on the fuel efficiency of vehicles, an issue that was raised by a number of stakeholders during the consultation process, as well as to reflect other methodological changes. Further details are set out in the impact assessment.

In practice, the environmental benefits that the RTFO is set to deliver will depend on a large number of assumptions, including the total amount of road transport fuel sales in any given year, the market share of different types of biofuel, and the amount of energy used to cultivate, harvest, process and transport the biofuels themselves. The costs of the RTFO will depend to a large extent on the relative difference in price between crude oil and agricultural commodities, which fluctuate widely.

The RTFO will provide the impetus for a long-term market for biofuels in the UK.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 10 October 2007

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Low Pay Commission

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am pleased to announce that the Government have written to the Low Pay Commission setting out our non-economic evidence on the national minimum wage. The evidence addresses enforcement; publicity and awareness; the extension of statutory annual leave; social care; and workers, including vulnerable workers, migrant workers, volunteers and apprentices.

The Government will be submitting their economic evidence to the Commission later this year.

A copy of the non-economic evidence will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available from the BERR website at www.berr.gov.uk.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Capital Investment in Schools 2008-11

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): Further to my statement on 8 October, I am announcing details of how £21.9 billion capital will be invested in schools between 2008 and 2011. As I said in my statement, good facilities where young people can learn and grow are a vital foundation for a good education, and that we are continuing the successful balance of programmes, established in 2004. These are: devolved programmes for every school and local authority; our long-term strategic programmes for primary and secondary education; and targeted programmes for key national investment priorities. These programmes, which I am announcing in detail, will drive our modernisation programme still further and faster.

Devolved Programmes

First, every school, local authority and diocese in the country will continue to receive resources. I am publishing each local authority's devolved allocations for the three financial years to 2010-11. I am also publishing the 2008-09 allocations for schools of devolved formula capital, and indicative allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11. Local people can decide how to invest these devolved resources in national and local priorities, and in support of their local children and young people plans, asset management plans and schools' own premises development plans. School and pupil security is one of the important areas that should be addressed.

Well-established programmes continue, including modernisation, new pupil places and school access. Voluntary aided schools continue to receive a fair share of these programmes. Capital investment for extended services in primary schools, which was previously paid through the General Sure Start grant, is being allocated through this route for the first time in order to promote more complementary investment.

Most capital programmes can be used to invest in technology equipment. As I announced on 8 October, given its importance, there will be £837 million over three years specifically for ICT.

Strategic Programmes

Secondly, we are driving our long-term, strategic programmes to modernise primary, secondary and special schools.

I am publishing the allocations for the new primary capital programme, including pilot projects in 23 local authorities in 2008-09 and extra resources for every local authority from 2009. In the Budget 2005, this Government pledged an initial £1,150 million extra resources for this programme. Yesterday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced that we will increase investment by £750 million across two years (£200 million of new investment announced yesterday in the comprehensive spending review, together with £550 million of headroom available within the Department's existing capital settlement), giving a total of £1,900 million in 2008-11.

This addition will allow at least one extra primary school to be modernised in every local authority. It reflects the importance that we place on the crucial primary phase of pupils' education. We will shortly be asking local authorities to prepare strategies that will set out their long-term investment plans. As part of these strategies, local authorities will forecast how many primary and special schools will benefit in the coming three years; my initial estimate is that it should be at least 675 schools over the next three years. The addition of £750 million means that we should achieve the programme's aims one year sooner, in 14 years instead of 15 years, subject to future public spending decisions.

We have already announced the projects that make up waves 1-6 of Building Schools for the Future. Planning is in hand for around 1,000 secondary schools, special schools and academies, with over 400 expected to be built by 2011. I am announcing the national budgets for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), including academies. Budgets for individual projects will be confirmed as waves 4-6 are finalised.

We welcome the Education and Skills Committee's thoughtful report on the delivery of BSF, which we have responded to formally. Despite the acknowledged delays in the early part of the programme, our delivery agency Partnerships for Schools is pressing ahead to ensure that we deliver 21st century facilities for all secondary pupils. Seventy-two local authorities are now in the programme. I am delighted that the first new school, Bristol Brunei Academy, opened last month. According to local authorities' plans, which may change, around a dozen schools will be open by the end of 2007-08, 50 more in 2008-09, 115 in 2009-10, 165 in 2010-11 and increasing to around 200 each year thereafter. This increasing rate is being driven by the professional expertise of Partnerships for Schools in supporting authorities as they develop their projects

and engaging the private sector. Partnerships for Schools is working with my Department to learn lessons from the early projects to improve and streamline processes, and to ensure that educational standards as well as good design and efficient procurement are at the heart of the programme. I am grateful to Tim Byles and his staff for what they bring to this programme.

A further 39 local authorities, already announced, have one-school pathfinder projects in planning, and I am setting out the budget for these and other prior commitments. So far, 83 academies are also open (36 with new buildings), and around 50 more are projected to open by September 2008—on track towards the target of 200 open or in the pipeline by 2010 and 400 beyond that. So, we are fulfilling the commitment that every local authority not starting in Building Schools for the Future until wave 10 or after would benefit from a new school or academy.

We are reviewing the roll-out of waves 7-15 of Building Schools for the Future and will consult on this later in the year. Following the consultation, local authorities will be able to resubmit their expressions of interest, and we will publish the revised national programme for waves 7-15 later in 2008. This will give schools, planning authorities and the private sector good time to get themselves ready to deliver waves 7 and 8.

Targeted Programmes

Thirdly, I am also focusing investment through the targeted capital fund to schools that need specific help to meet national priorities.

Many schools have been badly damaged by the summer's severe floods, and the Department has worked closely with the local authorities affected. I have re-assured these authorities that we will help them plan how best to meet the additional capital needs that the floods have caused. I want again to say how grateful we are for the efforts made by authorities, headteachers and staff to have places for all children at the beginning of term.

Seventy-six local authorities yet to be involved in Building Schools for the Future will share £608 million over two years—£8 million each. This investment is for them to respond to two national priorities: putting in place diploma provision for 14 to-19-year-olds, and improving poor condition buildings for children with special educational needs and disabilities. The latter priority addresses concerns in the responses to our consultation this summer. The intention is that this investment should be spent on a small number of major projects, rather than spread thinly. Separate arrangements will be made with the City of London and Isles of Scilly, given their small size. Also, I have set aside £10 million to pilot the delivery of 14-19 diplomas in rural areas.

There will also be resources of £150 million over two years for new school kitchens to promote healthier eating. We expect most local authorities and schools to use their devolved budgets to install kitchens where needed and to improve existing kitchens and dining areas to promote healthier eating. A few local authorities, however, have so many schools without kitchens that this central investment is needed to help them with the costs.

There will be resources of £327 million over three years to encourage local authorities and schools to develop new projects that promote standards and diversity. This will contribute to Fresh Start projects, expansions of popular and successful schools, schemes to remove an authority's excess surplus places, projects to encourage new school promoters, projects involving new trusts and federations, and small works at maintained boarding facilities, music and dance scheme schools, and non-maintained special schools.

We will run the Basic Need 'safety valve' mechanism again. This allows the few local authorities with exceptional growth in pupil numbers to apply to the Department for extra support, where their devolved allocations are insufficient.

We will contribute £300 million schools capital over three years to the 16-19 capital fund, run by the Learning and Skills Council, which provides funding for new places for 16 to-19-year-olds. This fund totals £630 million. Pooling schools and further education capital in this way ensures that investment is available whatever the setting—school sixth-form, sixth form centre or further education college.

Capital resources are also available to continue the specialist school and sustainable transport programmes, for teachers TV, and to meet existing commitments, including projects from previous rounds of the targeted capital fund.

National Expectations

As our long-term strategic programmes start to roll out, I am also setting out the Government's expectations of how local authorities, dioceses, schools and others involved in capital programmes should plan to make the most of investment now and to ensure that the investment, once made, is maintained.

The Government want to encourage better long-term, strategic planning of capital investment, linked to the delivery of services to children, young people and families. Authorities involved in Building Schools for the Future have developed the 'Strategy for Change' and a version of this will be implemented for primary schools in all authorities during 2008. We also plan to pilot integrated strategies for change, covering early years, schools, 14-19 and youth investment. Schools, local authorities and dioceses must address both national and local priorities in their plans. The Department plans to work with local authorities to define and agree how to forecast outputs for capital investment and to report on these. This will provide information for the construction sector to help with planning, and will show Parliament and the public what has been achieved with taxpayers' money.

Large numbers of primary, secondary and special schools are in line to be modernised through our strategic programmes. We encourage local authorities, dioceses and schools to plan their use of the other billions of pounds of funding they receive to modernise still more schools, or parts of schools, by adding to the primary capital programme and addressing need in areas not yet in Building Schools for the Future. We wish to encourage local authorities to target at least two thirds of their allocations in this way, while recognising that some cyclical and reactive maintenance is also required.

The Government will continue to embed excellent, sustainable design in all capital works, and my Department works with many influential design bodies

to improve school design. We also work to ensure efficient and sustainable procurement and construction. The budgets for Building Schools for the Future, academies and one-school pathfinders includes £110 million for carbon neutral schools, as previously announced, and we are also investigating ways of achieving 'zero carbon' new school buildings. Efficiency also means that we want all authorities to plan to remove excess surplus places.

The Government also want to work with local government, dioceses and schools to ensure that buildings, once modernised, are maintained properly. Schools themselves have an important role to play, and they must expect to use both their revenue and capital resources to maintain their buildings in good condition. We have introduced a two-tier rate of devolved formula capital grant for schools to reflect fairly the different investment needs of schools that have been rebuilt or refurbished and those that are still in unmodernised buildings. A typical unmodernised primary school of 250 pupils will receive the higher rate of £34,000 a year and a typical unmodernised secondary school of 1,000 pupils will receive £113,000 a year. Where it has been new built, rebuilt, or more than 80 per cent. refurbished, however, a similarly sized primary school will now receive a new standard rate of £17,000 a year, and a secondary school, £56,000 a year. This is a fair rate to allow good maintenance and small improvement projects. The definitions of which schools receive each rate have been simplified to take account of responses to the summer consultation.

All other proposals in the summer consultation have been implemented. The full consultation document and a summary of the responses will be placed in the House Library, together with details of the allocations to local authorities.

To conclude, this is an excellent capital settlement for schools. The Government look forward to working with schools, local government, dioceses and the private sector in the coming years to achieve sustained and lasting improvements in all our schools and so to improve the education and life chances of our children.

Budgets by Programme

The table below gives a breakdown by programme of schools capital investment for 2008 to 2011. The Department will issue shortly guidance on the programmes.

Conventional capital investment is made through capital grant, and for local authorities through a mix of capital grant, supported borrowing and private finance initiative credits. In response to representations from local government, the settlement strikes a new balance between capital grant and supported borrowing -with the amount of supported borrowing reducing by almost half, £500 million, by 2010-11.

Schools Capital Investment: 2008-11

£m	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
DEVOLVED PROGRAMMES			
Schools			
Devolved formula capital (*note 1*)	990	983	959
Sustainable transport plans	20	20	20
Specialist schools	20	15	15
Local Authority Areas			
LA modernisation (*note 2*)	512	509	517

Schools Capital Investment: 2008-11

£m	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
LA new pupil places	400	400	400
LA schools access (*note 3*)	96	96	96
LCVAP[1] (includes proportionate share for VA schools for new pupil places, modernisation, and schools access (*note2, note 3*)	218	218	218
Other ICT	279	279	279
Extended schools	84	89	46
STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES			
Primary Capital Programme (*note 4*)	150	650	1,100
Building Schools for the Future (including Academies) (*note 4*)	2,854	2,960	3,517
TARGETED PROGRAMMES			
TCF: prior commitments (including one-school pathfinders) and Basic Need "safety-valve"	874	380	253
TCF: 14-19 diplomas and special educational needs and disabilities	0	152	456
TCF: Kitchens	0	50	100
TCF: Standards and diversity (*note 5*)	63	114	150
Teachers TV	9	9	9
16-19 capital fund – contribution (*note 6*)	100	100	100
TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS	6,669	7,024	8,235

Notes:

note 1: Includes an element of transitional funding in 2008-09 in respect of changes to the allocation methodology. Figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are indicative. The lower 2010-11 figure reflects increasing numbers of modernised schools on the new standard rate.

note 2: Baseline budget for LA modernisation is £594 million each year, and £237 million for LCVAP. £232 million (LA modernisation) and £58 million (VA modernisation) has already been paid as an advance in 2007-08. The figures in the table take account of payback of the advance.

note 3: Schools Access increased by £ 15 million (of which £3 million in LCVAP) to compensate for changes to the devolved formula capital allocation methodology.

note 4: Strategic programmes include £1,320 million of PFI credits in each year. Most of this is for Building Schools for the Future, but some may be used for the primary capital programme, where a BSF local education partnership is used to procure the investment, and PFI financing offers best value for money.

note 5: Includes: incentive funding for expansion of successful and popular schools programme; LA schemes to remove excess surplus places; Fresh Start; trust and federation projects; new promoters projects; small works at maintained boarding facilities, Music and Dance schemes schools; and non-maintained special schools.

note 6: Schools capital contribution to the 16-19 capital fund for schools and further education institutions, which totals £210 million in each of the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. This is administered by the Learning and Skills Council.

[1]LCVAP = Local Authority Co-ordinated Voluntary-Aided Programme.

Details of the capital allocations to each local authority, its schools and local dioceses can be found at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Defence

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am pleased to tell the House that annual Government spending on flood and coastal erosion risk management will rise to a minimum of £650 million in 2008-09, and £700 million in 2009-10, reaching £800 million by 2010-11 as I announced on 2 July. These figures compare with a forecast spend of some £600 million in 2007-08.

These figures are the minimum we propose to spend in each of the coming years but it is too early to determine whether this will be the final allocation, or whether it will be possible to go further. We will need to take account of the independent lessons learned review into this summer's floods, chaired by Sir Michael Pitt.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education Students (Loans, Grants and Fees)

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell): On 5 July 2007 my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, announced that the minimum threshold of family income for a full maintenance grant would be increased from £17,500 to £25,000; and that the threshold for eligibility for a partial maintenance grant should rise to £60,000. This will mean that one third of eligible students entering higher education in 2008-09 will be entitled to a non-repayable grant of up to £2835; and another one third to a partial grant. Once these measures are fully implemented we estimate that 50,000 more students each year will receive full grants and over 100,000 extra students each year partial grants.

I placed a memorandum in the Library on 2 July giving details of the increased loan, grant and fee rates for the 2008-09 academic year. These are unchanged. However the detailed tables also included in the memorandum gave income thresholds for the maintenance grant and non means tested element of the student loan which have now been raised. I have now placed a revised memorandum in the Library which includes revised tables which make clear the levels of support available to new entrants in 2008-09, as well as tables of support for continuing students.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 11 October 2007

TREASURY

UK Assets Freezing Regime

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): In a written ministerial statement of 10 October 2006, the previous Economic Secretary undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's asset freezing regime. This is the fourth of these reports and covers the period July-September 2007[1].

Asset-Freezing Designations

In the quarter July-September 2007, the Treasury made eight domestic designations under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.

None of these were persons already designated under earlier orders.

The Terrorism order and the Al-Qaeda and Taliban order provide, where appropriate, for designations to be made confidentially and with restricted circulation of notice. Six persons were designated on this basis in this quarter.

Four persons were designated on the basis of closed source material provided by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

There were no financial sanctions listings at the EU or the UN in relation to terrorism or Al-Qaeda and the Taliban of persons with links to the UK.

A total of 284 separate accounts and approximately £625,000[2] of suspected terrorist funds have been frozen in the UK since 2001.

Reviews

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review. A number of formal reviews have been initiated in this quarter and the review of one case was completed. In this case a decision was taken to delist the designated person.

Litigation

An application under Article 5(4) of the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 for an order to set aside a designation was lodged at the High Court on 21 August 2007 by a designated person. Three other applications to set aside have subsequently been received on behalf of designated persons, who have sought to join them to the first application. A directions hearing which will cover all four cases is scheduled for 12th October 2007.

Licensing Policy

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002), the Treasury operates a licensing system whereby designated persons and others are able to apply to make or receive payments under specific and, if necessary, monitored conditions. In this quarter, the following licences were issued:

11 listed persons were granted legal expenses licences.

13 listed persons were granted basic expenses licences; (2 of which were for benefits payments); and

5 listed persons were granted extraordinary expenses licences.

In addition, the households of four listed persons were granted benefits licences in accordance with the policy set out in the previous Economic Secretary's statement of 3 July 2006 to Parliament.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using current exchange rates. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): A review of the multiple injury lump sum element of the armed forces and reserve forces compensation scheme has been undertaken over recent weeks. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the scheme's intent of focusing benefit on the most seriously injured was being delivered. We have concluded that, while the scheme overall remains fundamentally sound, the existing rule for multiple injuries received in a single incident was not intended for the type of multiple injury cases seen today, and that it is appropriate to reinforce the focus on the most seriously injured.

Subject to consultation, we are proposing to amend the rule so that those with multiple injuries who qualify for 100 per cent. of the guaranteed income payment (GIF), who are by definition the most seriously injured, will receive the full lump sum compensation award for each of their injuries sustained in a single incident, up to the maximum of £285,000. It is also proposed that additional benefits will be conferred on those who have had their cases determined under the current rule, so that they receive the same level of compensation as those determined after the rules have been changed. Those with less serious injuries, who do not qualify for 100 per cent. GIF payments, will continue to have the current rule applied to their multiple injuries.

The proposal has the full support of the service chiefs of staff. We are now consulting the members of the Central Advisory Committee, the statutory consultative body which advises on war pension and compensation issues, before finalising arrangements and making the necessary changes to the secondary legislation to put the new rule in place at the earliest opportunity.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 15 October in Luxembourg.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I will represent the UK.

Before the Presidency opens the Council, they will update partners on the Intergovernmental Conference on the draft EU Reform Treaty. The IGC legal group concluded on 3 October and a new draft treaty text has been sent to Parliament.

The Council agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Reinforcing the EU's Disaster Response

The Council is expected to discuss civil protection capabilities following recent forest fires in Southern Europe. The Government support the existing civil protection mechanism and believe The EU should identify the lessons learned from the recent emergencies while considering the implications for future operation of the mechanism and of community civil protection arrangements more widely.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

EU-Russia Summit Preparations

The Council is expected to discuss the EU-Russia summit in Mafra on 26 October, which will include discussion of a wide range of international, regional and bilateral issues. The Government support the EU-Russia summit and have been actively involved in the preparations.

Chad and Central African Republic

The Council is expected to discuss Chad, including EU efforts to support stability in the wider region. The Council is likely to adopt conclusions on the deployment of a possible peacekeeping force to Chad and the Central African Republic under the European security and defence policy. The conclusions are also expected to reiterate the EU's support for Darfur's political process, in particular the peace talks in Libya starting on 27 October, rapid deployment of the UN/AU hybrid peacekeeping force, and the EU's readiness to consider further measures against any party who obstructs this process.

Burma

The Council is expected to discuss recent developments in Burma. The Government want the EU to maintain pressure on the regime, including by agreeing a package of EU measures against the regime, while supporting a UN-led reconciliation process.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions calling on the regime to engage with the UN while leaving open the threat of further measures should the regime continue to block progress towards reconciliation.

Zimbabwe

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will raise the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe, including the increasing humanitarian crisis, and ways the EU can promote and support a democratic process in Zimbabwe during elections in 2008.

Western Balkans

The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Carla Del Ponte, is expected to brief the Council on Serbia's cooperation with the ICTY. The June council Conclusions made clear that full cooperation by the Serb government with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia remains a requirement for the conclusion of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The Government fully support this position.

The Council is also expected to discuss ways in which the EU can support the negotiations on Kosovo's final status and to adopt conclusions expressing full support for ongoing efforts by the EU/Russia/US Troika to reach agreement between Belgrade and Pristina on a status settlement. The Council is also expected to adopt conclusions on the signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Montenegro and expressing the EU's support for High Representative Miroslav Lajcak and his efforts to advance key reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Government fully support the conclusions.

Libya

External Relations Commissioner, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, is expected to update the Council on plans for an EU/Libya Framework Agreement. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions giving the Commission a mandate to take this forward. The Government believe the EU should move quickly towards a formalised relationship with Libya, which will help secure progress in areas of mutual interest, such as combating illegal migration.

Middle East

The Council is expected to discuss ways in which the EU can provide practical support to strengthen Palestinian institutions. The Government also believe the EU should urgently re-engage and expand the EU mission to support the Palestinian civilian police. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions emphasising support for the international meeting hosted by the US in November and reiterating the importance of continued humanitarian support to Gaza.

The Council is likely to discuss Lebanon in light of the political tensions surrounding the Lebanese parliamentary elections and the recent assassination of the MP Antoine Ghanem on 19 September. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on Lebanon, which the Government support, condemning the assassination of MP Antoine Ghanem and urging agreement on a consensus presidential candidate through dialogue. The conclusions are also likely to welcome the end of fighting between the army and extremist militants in the Nahr Al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp, and support Lebanon's reconstruction efforts in the damaged camp.

Iran

The Council is expected to discuss steps the EU can take to support the agreed twin track international approach to the Iranian nuclear issue. This includes discussions between the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, and Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and incremental sanctions against Iran for continued defiance of the will of the international community, as set out in UN Security Council Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747. The Government support the twin track approach and believe it is important that the EU should consider appropriate measures to put pressure on Iran in parallel with the UN process.

Iraq

The Council is expected to discuss EU engagement with Iraq. The Government support work to improve EU initiatives in support of a secure and stable Iraq and welcome discussion of the EU's financial, technical and political support, including to the Iraq Neighbours process. The Council is also expected to discuss steps to support the UN's role as set out in UN Securitv Council Resolution 1723.

AOB: Economic Partnership Agreements

The Commission is expected to update the Council on discussion of the Economic Partnership Agreements at the Development Ministers Informal in Madeira on 22 September.

Correction to Written Answer

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown has made the following written ministerial statement:

"In my reply on 23 July to the below question from my noble Friend Lord Judd, I incorrectly stated that the UK's contribution to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was £98 million, *Official Report*, column WA71. I regret the error and my corrected answer is given below:

The Lord Judd: To ask Her Majesty's Government, how many of the Iraqi refugees in Syria are thought to be the victims of torture; and what discussions they have had with the Government of Syria and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on how best to respond. HL4895

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Malloch-Brown): The UK is not in a position to assess the numbers of Iraqi refugees in Syria that have been victims of torture. We have not had any discussions on this issue with either the UNHCR or the Government of Syria.

The UK continues to support the UNHCR's leading role in providing humanitarian support to Iraq Refugees in Syria. In 2006 the UK contributed approximately US$52 million (approximately £26 million) to support the work of the UNHCR worldwide, including in Syria. In addition, officials from our Embassy in Damascus have visited the UNHCR refugee reception centre in Damascus to assess the conditions there. We are now looking at supporting a range of projects aimed at improving conditions for Iraqi refugees, specifically in the areas of education and healthcare".

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts) announced last week that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor had decided to authorise the following NHS acute and mental health trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 October:

Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust;

North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; and

Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts to 77. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to apply for foundation status as soon as practicable. Monitor is now authorising trusts on a monthly basis, and further waves of NHS foundation trusts are set to follow.

WORK AND PENSIONS

International Labour Organisation Instruments

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The 95th Session of the International Labour Conference 2006 adopted a new Convention 187 and Recommendation 197 on a Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health; and a Recommendation 198 - The Employment Relationship. I have today published a White Paper entitled "International Labour Conference, Proposed action on a Convention and Recommendations adopted at the 95th Session of the International Labour Conference 2006", (Cm 7217), copies of which are available in the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 15 October 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Social Housing Regulation

The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper): I am announcing today decisions on the location and scope of the new social housing regulator following Professor Martin Cave's review of social housing regulation in England earlier this year "Every Tenant Matters: A review of social housing regulation, Professor Martin Cave, June 2007" and our subsequent consultation "Delivering Housing and Regeneration: Communities England and the future of social housing regulation, Communities and Local Government, June 2007".

I am announcing that the regulator will be established as an independent, standalone body—called The Office for Tenants and Social Landlords. We intend to implement this through the forthcoming Housing and Regeneration Bill which was included in the Government's draft legislative programme published on 11 July 2007. I am also appointing an independently chaired advisory panel to give further advice on the technical work needed to bring local authority landlords within the Regulator's scope.

The Office for Tenants and Social Landlords will take on the regulatory functions of the Housing Corporation. The investment functions of the Housing Corporation will pass to the Homes and Communities Agency.

Unlike under the current regulatory framework, the new regulator will have the power to reduce red tape and regulation for Registered Social Landlords that are performing well, and will also have stronger and more wide ranging powers to take action where tenants are not getting a good service. The new regulator will therefore put a much greater emphasis on service to tenants, with tenants groups able to trigger inspections and interventions when problems arise.

Background

Martin Cave published his review of social housing regulation in June, recommending the establishment of a new independent regulator, responsive to tenants and applying the principles of modern, risk-based regulation. He proposed that tenants should have a central role - and should be able to trigger intervention by the Regulator when they identified systemic failings by their landlord.

Government immediately accepted the bulk of his recommendations, but consulted on two key questions—the location of the regulator, and whether local authority landlords should fall within the regulator's scope.

Regulating local authority landlords

The Cave review recommended that the regulator's responsibilities should be cover all social housing providers—Registered Social Landlords, local authorities, Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs) and others. Government were clear in their response to Cave that tenants should be able to expect the same minimum standards of service and have similar opportunities for empowerment, to influence delivery and to seek redress regardless of their social housing provider. However we also recognised that the funding, governance and accountability arrangements vary significantly between providers, and we were mindful of our commitments in the Local Government White Paper to implement a new, single, performance framework for outcomes secured by local authorities working alone or in partnership. We therefore invited views on this issue through consultation.

Respondents to the consultation were overwhelmingly in favour of bringing local authority landlords into the scope of the regulator in principle. But a large number of them also highlighted the importance of recognising the significantly different governance and finance arrangements between the different sectors, and making arrangements which were consistent with the single performance framework for local authorities.

I am announcing therefore that whilst we see a strong case for bringing local authorities into the regulator's scope, we need to do further detailed work with stakeholders on a range of detailed issues. I therefore propose to appoint an independently chaired advisory panel to provide support on handling these issues. It is my intention that cross-domain regulation should be in place within two years of the regulator coming into operation.

The location of the regulator

The Cave review recommended that there should be a separation of investment and regulation functions—both currently carried out by the Housing Corporation. He said that the new regulator could be established as part of the Audit Commission, but that he would prefer a new standalone regulator.

Our consultation document recognised that locating the regulatory functions in the Audit Commission would build on its existing strengths and consumer focus, and it could be implemented quickly. However we also recognised that a standalone regulator may be better at this stage at commanding the confidence of those who provide private finance for social housing. We consulted openly on this issue.

In responding to the consultation document, Registered Social Landlords, tenant representative bodies and lenders all favoured a standalone regulator because of the greater clarity of purpose of an independent regulator, and because of the importance of the regulator maintaining expertise in private finance issues. As it is vital that the new regulatory arrangements command the confidence of lenders in order to support increasing new social housing, I therefore propose to establish the new regulator as a standalone body.

HEALTH

Clostridium Difficile

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The Healthcare Commission (HCC) published a report on 11 October 2007 titled "Report of the investigation following outbreaks of Clostridium difficile at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust" following their investigation into Clostridium difficile.

The HCC commissioned its investigation into the trust following a request by the then Kent and Medway Strategic Health Aut ority following concerns that there had been a significant increase in the numbers of Clostridium difficile at the trust. The report has been placed in the Library.

There were two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospitals NHS Trust between April 2004 and September 2006. The findings of the report show that there were 1,176 patients with Clostridium difficile at the trust between April 2004 and September 2006, of whom at least 345 died.

The report estimates that if the 50 cases that were reviewed as part of the HCC's investigation were representative of the 345 who died, and the reviewer's assessments are extrapolated to all, of the 345 deaths, Clostridium difficile was probably or definitely the main cause of death in approximately 90 patients, and definitely the cause in 21 cases.

The report calls for immediate changes to improve the care of patients and control of infection at the trust, which I fully support. The report has exposed significant failings in the duty of care at the trust, which I do not expect to see replicated elsewhere in the country. The HCC is continuing to work with the trust and NHS South East Coast to ensure an appropriate action plan is agreed and implemented.

Following the recommendation of the Health Care Commission Report, the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority have commissioned an independent review into the leadership of the trust during the period of the outbreaks. This will be carried out by an independent consultancy with experience in this area, and an interim report will be made available to the strategic health authority by November.

In addition to this, I have asked the Department to carry out a separate review into the role of the Chair of the trust and the decision-making process that led to the terms and conditions of the Chief Executive's departure. This will conclude urgently, will be shared with the Appointments Commission and will inform what action is taken with regard to the position of the Chair.

This is an alarming and distressing case and the trust and the Department has offered its sincere condolences to the patients and families who have been affected by these outbreaks

In line with national guidelines, trusts should deliver, clean, safe treatment for every patient in their care, every time. Where senior management and trust boards fail to act to deliver this expected standard they must and will be held accountable.

In addition, the NHS Chief Executive will write personally to every NHS trust appending a copy of the Healthcare Commission's report and seek reassurances from every Chief Executive in the country that the drive to improve infection control is a major priority in every organisation.

Although employment is a matter for the local NHS trust board, I have instructed the trust in this exceptional case to withhold any severance payment to the former chief executive of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, pending legal advice.

TRANSPORT

Rail Franchise Enforcement Policy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department for Transport has today published a consultation paper on rail franchise enforcement policy.

The document details the Department's stepped and pragmatic approach to enforcement. It also contains a statement of policy with respect to the imposition of penalties and the determination of their amount, which the Department has a legal obligation to consult on.

The purpose of the document is to ensure that the Department's current policy is transparent and easily understood, and to ascertain from stakeholders whether further clarification on any element of the enforcement process is required.

Copies have been sent to rail industry stakeholders and it will be available on the DFT's website for the 12-week consultation period, running from 15 October 2007 to 4 January 2008. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statement

Tuesday 16 October 2007

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection reports on the following councils were published on Blyth Valley Borough Council, Boston Borough Council, Broadland District Council and London Borough of Haringey. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The BFI reports detail a range of strengths and weaknesses in the housing benefit services provided by councils and make recommendations to improve the security and efficiency of benefit delivery.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the reports and may ask the councils for proposals in response to BFI's findings.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 17 October 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Control

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I can today confirm the new London Fire Brigade Regional Control Centre will be located at Morden, in the London Borough of Merton. This new control centre will provide a modern, effective control and mobilisation system that will help to protect the public in London, support the London fire brigade to save lives and form part of the resilient FiReControl network across England.

Working in close partnership with the fire and rescue service, the FiReControl project is a key part of Communities and Local Government's investment in the Fire Resilience Programme. To be in a position to make this announcement of the location of the London Regional Control Centre is testament to the close partnership working with both LFEPA and the London fire brigade in delivering this project.

FiReControl will deliver a resilient network of nine regional control centres (RCCs) which unlike now will be able to back each other up automatically—including during particularly busy times—and to mobilise fire and rescue service resources across England, including new dimension equipment.

These purpose-built regional control centres will be supported by best available technology, including:

Caller location technology to identify the whereabouts of the caller whether from a landline or mobile phone;

Vehicle location equipment to determine which appropriate fire appliance(s) can reach an incident first;

Data transmission to mobilise the nearest appropriate appliance quickly, without relying on voice messages;

In-cab mobile data terminals providing firefighters with key information—for example, the location of the nearest hydrants and water supplies; floor plans and access details for buildings, where appropriate; and relevant standard operating procedures for the type of incident concerned—for example, how to dismantle a particular type of car or deal with a particular chemical; and

Satellite navigation technology providing the quickest route to the incident, taking into account the latest information available on traffic conditions and road closures. We have worked closely with key partners in London to ensure that the best location and developer have been chosen to provide the RCC building, meeting our stretching resilience criteria. Following the EU procurement process the new London RCC will be developed by a joint venture between Morley Fund Management and Easter Group.

The other eight regional control centres are already under development, and three have already reached practical completion. The national network is becoming operational in three phases and will be fully operational by the end of 2011.

HEALTH

NHS Final Audited Figures (2006-07)

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): My Department has today published the audited figures for the NHS for the financial year 2006-07. These show that the NHS recorded a net surplus in 2006-07 of £514.6 million.

My Department's report on NHS finance and performance at quarter one of 2007-08 indicated that the NHS is on course to deliver a very healthy surplus at the end of the current financial year. This forecast surplus gives flexibility for the NHS at local level to continue to deliver the changes needed to ensure that patients see improvements in both access to, and the quality of, care.

Audited figures, by organisation for each strategic health authority, have been placed in the Library, and will be published today on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh_079580.

Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 18 October 2007

TREASURY

Stamp Duty Land Tax (Zero-Carbon Homes Relief)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): The Finance Act 2007 provides the Treasury with powers to make regulations granting relief from stamp duty land tax on the first sale of a new zero-carbon house. I am pleased to announce that I am today laying before the House of Commons draft regulations under the affirmative procedure entitled The Stamp Duty Land Tax (Zero-Carbon Homes Relief) Regulations 2007.

These draft regulations follow the announcement in the 2006 Pre-Budget Report by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that a stamp duty land tax exemption would be introduced for the vast majority of new zero-carbon homes in 2007. The relief will help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of microgeneration ahead of 2016, and it sets a gold standard for green homes.

The draft regulations provide that on the first acquisition of a new house meeting the zero-carbon standard, as set out in the regulations, costing up to £500,000 no stamp duty land tax is payable and on the first acquisition of a new zero-carbon house costing in excess of £500,000 there will be a reduction of £15,000 to the stamp duty land tax bill. The exemption will be time limited for five years until 30 September 2012 but before the end of the time limit the Government will review the effectiveness of the relief and consider the case for an extension.

Following consultation on the draft regulations the definition of the zero-carbon standard for stamp duty land tax has been closely aligned with the zero-carbon requirements set out in Department for Communities and Local Government's Code for Sustainable Homes. The rationale for this change is set out in the summary of responses to the consultation on the draft regulations and the Government's response, published today.

The tax relief will apply retrospectively from 1 October 2007. This means that anyone who completes a transaction on a new zero-carbon home between 1 October 2007 and the date on which the regulations come into force will be entitled to claim the relief.

HEALTH

NHS Annual Health Check

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Today the Healthcare Commission has announced publication of the 2006-07 Annual Health Check. The report has been placed in the Library and copies for hon. Members are available from the Vote Office. The report can also be found at: www.healthcarecommission.org.uk

The Annual Health Check provides an independent assessment of NHS organisations to ensure they meet high standards and deliver for their patients. These independent ratings give a clear picture about quality of services, which matters most to patients.

We welcome the results for 2006-07 showing an overall improvement in quality of services and use of resources. The NHS will continue to focus on improving services for patients and addressing poor performance, and we fully support the independent action of the Healthcare Commission to investigate poor performing trusts.

CABINET OFFICE

Ministerial Responsibilities

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband): I have today published a revised edition of the List of Ministerial Responsibilities (October 2007). Copies have been placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of the House.

The List can also be accessed at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial responsibilities/.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Corrections to the Official Report and Publication of NDPB Letters in Hansard

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The House agreed to the Second Report from the Procedure Committee *Corrections to the Official Report* (HC541) on 19 June 2007. The Committee, following representations from my predecessor the right hon. Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw), proposed a new scheme involving a separate section of Hansard for printed corrections. I am today issuing guidance to Departments as to how it will work. A copy has been deposited in the Library of the House and is also available on the Leader's Office website at:

www.commonsleader.gov.uk.

The procedure will provide greater consistency and improve transparency in this area for Members of the House and the public.

Following further advice from the Procedure Committee, it has been agreed that, where the Minister takes responsibility for the reply, it is acceptable for letters from the heads of NDPBs in response to parliamentary questions to be published in Hansard, in an arrangement similar to the publication of letters from chief executives of agencies.

Both these processes will begin in November 2007.

Revitalising the Chamber (Modernisation Committee Report)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Today I have published "Governance of Britain—Revitalising the Chamber: the Role of the Back-Bench Member. (The Government's response to the Modernisation Committee's First Report of Session 2006-07; HC337)" (CM7231).

The Government are grateful to the Committee for its work and consider the report to be a helpful contribution to promoting greater effectiveness and interest in the work of the Chamber.

The House will have the opportunity to debate the report on Thursday 25 October and I will bring forward the necessary motions to give effect to the relevant parts of the report shortly.

Copies of the Government's response can be obtained from the Vote Office.

Commons Calendar

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I am today announcing details of the House of Commons calendar until October 2008, details of which can be found on the Leader's Office website www.commonsleader.gov.uk.

The House will rise for the Christmas recess at the end of business on Tuesday 18 December 2007, returning on Monday 7 January 2008. The constituency recess week will begin at the end of business on Thursday 7 February, and the House will return on Monday 18 February. The House will rise on Thursday 20 March, returning on Tuesday 25 March and further rise on Thursday 3 April, returning on Monday 21 April for Easter recess. The Whitsun recess will begin at the end of the sitting on Thursday 22 May and the House will return on Monday 2 June. The House will rise for the summer on Tuesday 22 July, returning on Monday 6 October.

The Friday dates for consideration of Private Members' Bills will be 25 January, 1 February, 22 February, 29 February, 7 March, 14 March, 25 April, 9 May, 16 May, 6 June, 13 June, 20 June and 17 October.

There will be an opportunity for the tabling and answering of named-day questions during the summer recess. The expected tabling days are Wednesday 3 September, Monday 8 September and Wednesday 10 September. The dates proposed for answering are Wednesday 10 September, Monday 15 September and Wednesday 17 September.

All dates given are provisional and subject to the progress of business.

Copies of the printed calendar can be obtained from the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 19 October 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Empowerment - Building on Success

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): Today the Department for Communities and Local Government is publishing an action plan in partnership with the Local Government Association setting out a substantive and exciting community empowerment agenda. I will be launching the plan at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations later this morning.

The document "An Action Plan for Community Empowerment: Building on Success" outlines proposals to create change at a very local level. The plan draws on existing good practice and brings together a range of actions to broaden and deepen empowerment activity. It forms an important strand of the Government's overall strategy for constitutional renewal, as set out in the Governance of Britain Green Paper. It will also be a building block to develop a cross-Government approach to community empowerment. It sets out activities in three key areas: widening and deepening empowerment opportunities locally; supporting and enabling people to take up those opportunities; and strengthening local representative democracy.

The document has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at:
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communityempowermentactionplan

DEFENCE

Airfield Review (Tertiary Airfield Support)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): On 18 July 2002, *Official Report*, columns 460-464, my right hon. Friend, the Member for Ashfield (Mr Hoon) the then Secretary of State for Defence, announced the publication of a new chapter to the 1998 Strategic Defence Review (SDR) that was designed to ensure that our defence policies, capabilities and force structures matched the challenges that the new terrorist threats posed.

Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) comprises: armed Tornado F3 and Typhoon aircraft held at ground readiness for immediate take-off; the Air Surveillance and Control System to provide warning and command and control of the fighter aircraft; and tanker aircraft also held at high ground readiness. QRA fulfils two concurrent functions. Firstly, it meets the United Kingdom's responsibility within NATO to provide air policing of agreed member airspace. Secondly, under UK national control, QRA provides an airborne contribution to countering threats against the UK by terrorist organisations or individuals. The SDR New Chapter confirmed that airfields across the UK—RAF Marham, RAF St Mawgan and RNAS Yeovilton—would be able to support QRA aircraft when needed, in addition to the bases from which the QRA aircraft usually operate.

Following the decision to dispose of the airfield at RAF St Mawgan, we have reviewed the short term tertiary airfields that support quick reaction alert aircraft and decided that MOD Boscombe Down and RNAS Culdrose will now be enabled by Spring 2008 to cover any potential threats to the south and south-western airspaces. In the interim, RAF St Mawgan will continue to be utilised as necessary to support short term QRA aircraft. RAF Marham will continue to be maintained as a tertiary QRA airfield. This support is in addition to the bases that are already able to operate such aircraft and will give us enhanced flexibility in our air defence arrangements.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I will be representing the United Kingdom for the agricultural items at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. The Minister with responsibility for marine, landscape and rural affairs, my hon. Friend the Minister for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw), will represent the UK for the fisheries items. The Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, will also attend.

The Council will hold a policy debate on Commission proposals for reform of the common market organisation for the wine sector.

The Presidency will seek political agreement on a proposal amending a regulation on the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Presidency will seek political agreement on requests for national aids in Bulgaria and Romania to assist with the aftermath of recent drought conditions.

The Presidency will also seek political agreement on a proposal fixing cod recovery measures and a range of catch restrictions to apply in the Baltic Sea for 2008.

The Council will hold an exchange of views on the EU/Norway fisheries agreement for 2008 based on a Presidency questionnaire.

The Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner will then present the Commission's Communication on EU Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013) "Prevention is better than cure".

A number of issues, as follows, will be raised under any other business: Spain will request Council discussion of the future of the bluefin tuna fishery.

Poland will request Council discussion on the situation in the pigmeat market.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, Kim Darroch (UK Permanent Representative to the EU) and I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Luxembourg.

Before the Presidency opened the Council, it briefed Partners on the Intergovernmental Conference on the draft EU Reform Treaty, ahead of the European Council on 18-19 October. The UK was assured by the Presidency that the language in the Reform Treaty which allows national parliaments to challenge proposed EU legislation on subsidiarity grounds is permissive and contains no obligation, and that the Treaty text will be amended to reflect this.

The Government are content that all the UK red lines have been achieved and are reflected in the new draft Treaty text published by the Presidency on 5 October, a copy of which has been sent to Parliament.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs

Reinforcing the EU's disaster response

The Council discussed the EU's response mechanisms, following the recent natural disasters in Europe. The Council invited the Commission to develop proposals on the basis of the lessons learned from the recent emergencies, which the Government support.

External Relations

EU-Russia Summit preparations

The Council discussed preparations for the EU-Russia Summit in Mafra on 26 October. Discussion at the Summit is expected to cover climate change, energy and international issues including Kosovo, the Middle East Peace Process, Iran, Afghanistan and Moldova. The Government support the EU -Russia Summit and have been working closely with Partners on the preparations.

Chad, Central African Republic and Sudan

The Council discussed the situation in the wider region, before agreeing a Joint Action on the proposed EU peacekeeping force in Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR Tchad-CAR), under the European Security and Defence Policy, supporting the multi-dimensional UN Security Council mandated presence by contributing to the protection of refugees and internally displaced people, and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Council adopted Conclusions supporting ongoing efforts by the UN and African Union to resolve the conflict in Darfur and expressing the EU's commitment to improving the security situation in the wider region through the deployment of EUFOR Tchad-CAR. The Conclusions, which the Government fully support, expressed concern about the recent announcement by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to suspend its participation in the Government of National Unity, and urged the continuation of regional dialogue to achieve reconciliation including full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Burma

The Council discussed the deteriorating situation in Burma before agreeing a package of EU measures against the regime including a trade and investment ban in the timber, gems and precious metals sectors, which the Government fully support.

The Council adopted Conclusions condemning the violent use of force against the demonstrators and calling on the regime to engage with the UN-led reconciliation process while expressing the EU's readiness to review these measures in light of developments, with the threat of further measures if necessary —including a ban on future EU investment, as called for by the Prime Minister.

Zimbabwe

The Council discussed sending an envoy to Zimbabwe to report back on the economic and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. The Presidency and the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, is taking this forward.

Western Balkans

The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) briefed the Council on Serbia's co-operation with ICTY.

The Council adopted Conclusions, which the Government support, welcoming the signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Montenegro and expressing the EU's support for High Representative Miroslav Lajcak and efforts to progress key reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular police reform. The Council also expressed full support for efforts by the Troika (EU, Russia and US) to secure a negotiated settlement on the status of Kosovo.

Libya

The Council discussed Libya following the release of the medical workers sentenced to death in connection with the infection of children with HIV/AIDS in Benghazi.

The Council adopted Conclusions giving the Commission a mandate to open negotiations with Libya on a framework agreement in areas of mutual interest including illegal migration. The Government support the Commission's work in this area.

Middle East Peace Process

The Council adopted Conclusions, which the Government support, encouraging the continued dialogue between President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert, reiterating the hope that the meetings will lead to meaningful negotiations on final status. The Council Conclusions also expressed full support for the Annapolis meeting in November hosted by the US and stressed the importance of the EU: providing financial support to the Palestinian Authority as soon as possible; urgently re-engaging and expanding the EU Police Mission in the West Bank (EUPOL CORPS); and opening the crossings into Gaza.

The Council adopted Conclusions on Lebanon condemning the assassination of MP Antoine Ghanem and urging agreement on a Presidential candidate through dialogue.

Iran

The Council discussed ways the EU could contribute to international efforts to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue, which include the E3+3-led (UK, France, Germany, Russia, China and US) twin-track diplomatic approach supported by the Government, offering Iran a substantial package of benefits if they co-operate, but incremental UN sanctions if they continue to defy international law.

The Council adopted Conclusions which fully reflect the Government's position, reiterating its support for the efforts by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, to encourage Iran to return to talks on a long-term solution, and calling for Iran's full and timely implementation of all measures required by or agreed with the International Atomic and Energy Agency, while expressing the EU's intention to consider what additional measures it might take to support the UN process and the shared objectives of the international community.

Iraq

The Council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Government of Iraq to bring stability, security and prosperity to all of its citizens. It discussed ways in which the EU could enhance its engagement with Iraq, including through supporting implementation of the UN's role as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1723; building the capacity of central institutions; and providing humanitarian assistance. The Government welcome this discussion and support deeper EU engagement in Iraq.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Council discussed the deteriorating situation in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

AOB: Economic Partnership Agreements

The Commission briefed the Council on developments in the Economic Partnership Agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 8 October 2007

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what changes he has made to No. 10 Downing street since 27 June 2007 to make it more environmentally friendly. [154088]

Phil Hope: No. 10 Downing street forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office estate.

The Cabinet Office is committed to contribution to the goals, priorities and principles of the UK Government sustainable development strategy, "Securing the Future". We are equally committed to achieving the targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate launched by the Prime Minister in June 2006. To this end the Cabinet Office has implemented a system of environmental management and improvement, which enables us to measure and monitor our impact on the environment, commit to improvements within the set time frames and report publicly on progress.

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on refurbishments and improvements to No. 10 Downing street in *(a)* June and *(b)* July 2007. [153348]

Edward Miliband: Costs incurred on refurbishments and improvements to No. 10 Downing street in the 2007-08 financial year, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2008 summer recess.

Auctions

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the Government-approved auction houses. [153875]

Gillian Merron: The Government do not hold a list of approved auction houses. Individual departments decide upon which auction houses to use, according to their individual need.

Information regarding Government auctions can be found at the Direct Gov website at http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HI1/Help/YourQuestions/DG_10014697. A copy of which is also available in the Libraries of the House.

Charities: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Government's policy is on paying foregone interest when money owed or promised to charities is delayed. [154537]

Phil Hope: Public sector organisations should: use good commercial practice in managing the flows of expenditure and commitments they deal with; settle their bills on time within contractual terms in line with The Better Payments Practice Code; and be bound by The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1988. In relation to grants, once an agreement has been made and payment schedules agreed to, public sector organisations should honour these in the same way as they would any commercial or contractual arrangements. Government departments are required to note as exceptional any interest payments in relation to late payments in their resource accounts. This is set out in the "Managing Public Money" guidance issued by HM Treasury on sound financial management of public funds.

Departments: Buildings

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the design and procurement option under consideration for the refurbishment for the heritage Cabinet Office estate. [151282]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that the then Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2184W.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 35W, on departments: freedom of information, and the Ministry of Justice aggregated statistics, what information has been requested of his Department under the Act in the last six months. [153617]

Edward Miliband: Information relating to Freedom of Information and Environmental Information requests is published on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Justice. Information for January to March 2007 was published on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 10WS, copies of the document are in the Libraries of the House. Information for April to June 2007 is due to be published in the autumn. It is not the Government's normal practice to disclose details of the content of such requests.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many receptions have been held by his Department since May 2005; broken down by *(a)* date, *(b)* venue, *(c)* purpose, *(d)* host, *(e)* who paid, *(f)* estimated attendance and *(g)* cost to his Department. [151278]

Edward Miliband: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153291]

Edward Miliband: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Emergency Services: Training

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements there are for collaboration between the Emergency Planning College and the Fire Service College for training in multi-agency response. [155485]

Edward Miliband: The types of training delivered by the Fire Service College and the Emergency Planning College reflect their differing but complementary missions. The Fire Service College focuses on specialist training at the operational (bronze), tactical (silver) and strategic (gold) levels, and over 90 per cent. of its students are from the fire and rescue service. As officers progress through the levels, they receive increasing exposure to multi-agency operations. In contrast, the Emergency Planning College's courses bring together all the many services and organisations involved in multi-agency working at the strategic (gold) level in large-scale emergencies, including non-blue light scenarios such as influenza. As a result, fire and rescue service students comprise less than 10 per cent. of the Emergency Planning College's intake.

In order to maximise the UK's resilience to emergencies the Emergency Planning College and Fire Service College collaborate to ensure that their training programmes are consistent with their responsibilities, meet their respective customers' requirements and achieve synergy. The overall co-ordination is effected through periodic meetings at senior and middle management levels of the major providers of multi-agency training, including the Fire Service and Emergency Planning Colleges and the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Minister for the Olympics and for London

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total estimated annual cost is of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space, *(d)* administrative support and *(e)* special advisers for the Minister for the Olympics. [154700]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

The cost of Cabinet Office Ministers' offices will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts for 2007-08 when accounts have been finalised. A list of special advisers by Department and pay band will be published in due course. Details of ministerial salaries are available in the House Library and at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/parliamentary/pay/ministerial/index.asp

Non-Profit Making Associations

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what record has been kept of charities and social enterprises launched as part of Government initiatives since 1997. [154605]

Phil Hope: No central record is kept of the number of the number of charities or social enterprises launched as part of Government initiatives.

Where an independent charity or social enterprise is launched as part of a Government initiative, the relevant Government department would maintain formal records. The Office of the Third Sector keeps both electronic and paper records of the initiatives it has launched.

Non-Profit Making Associations: Grants

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much grant funding was given to third sector organisations by *(a)* the Active Community Directors' and *(b)* the Social Enterprise Unit in each year of their operation. [154474]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) was created from the Active Communities Directorate (ACD) of the Home Office and the Social Enterprise Unit of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as a machinery of government change in May 2006.

Audited information on expenditure by the ACD in the Home Office and the Social Enterprise Unit in the DTI is not available separately. Recorded grant funding by the ACD, based on internal outturn data of grants paid to the sector in each financial year was as follows:

	£
1998-99	11,269,348
1999-2000	15,705,645
2000-01	18,894,849
2001-02	28,146,399
2002-03	44,119,332
2003-04	63,767,427
2004-05	107,780,463
2005-06	154,824,807

The Social Enterprise made a small number of grants during its lifetime totalling less than £1 million between its creation in October 2001 and the transfer of funding to the Office of the Third Sector in May 2006.

Details of the transfer of grants in 2006-07 from the Home Office and the Department of Trade and Industry to the Cabinet Office are published in the Central Government Supply Estimates (2006-07), Winter Supplementary Estimates and New Estimates HC 2 and in the Central Government Supply Estimates (2006-07), Spring Supplementary Estimates HC 293.

Office of the Third Sector

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the purpose is of the review of the Office of the Third Sector; and how long it is planned to take. [154540]

Phil Hope: The purpose of the review was to examine the structure and skills set in the Office of the Third Sector.

The review process ran from January to April 2007. This was implemented and the new structure came into effect on 4 June 2007.

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the results of the review of the Office of the Third Sector will be made publicly available. [154603]

Phil Hope: The review considered the structure and skills set of the Office of the Third Sector. The result of this review is the new structure that came into effect on 4 June 2007. An overview of this structure is publicly available on the Office of the Third sector website: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/, a copy of which I have placed in the Library of the House.

Terrorism: Memorial Day

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has to promote and contribute towards the European Union's Memorial Day for the victims of terrorism, in 2008; and if she will make a statement. [154099]

Tessa Jowell: Plans are still being developed at the EU for the 2008 European Union's Memorial Day for the victims of terrorism, it is therefore too early to give details of any contribution. However, as in previous years, we will make information available to the 2008 Memorial Day through appropriate mechanisms such as the 7 July Assistance Centre Newsletter.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report on variable charging for domestic rubbish collection. [153811]

Edward Miliband: The Strategy Unit has not published a specific report on variable charging for domestic rubbish collection. Its report "Waste Not, Want Not", published in November 2002, looked at how we manage waste overall in England and considered a range of financial incentives to encourage householders to reduce and recycle more waste, including variable charging. The Government are currently consulting on proposals to allow authorities to introduce local variable waste charging following publication of the Waste Strategy 2007.

The Strategy Unit's "Waste Not, Want Not", report is available at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work_areas/waste/index.asp.

The Waste Strategy for England 2007 is available at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/index.htm.

WALES

Brofiscan Quarry

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has received about the polluting of Brofiscan Quarry in South Wales. [154585]

Mr. Hain: I have received two approaches on the subject, both of which I referred to the Welsh Assembly Government, which now has oversight of environmental regulation in Wales.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales who will be liable for the cost of the damage caused by the polluting of Brofiscan Quarry in South Wales. [154583]

Mr. Hain: I understand that the Environment Agency is currently investigating the matter of responsibility for remediation costs, and is in contact with several companies and individuals.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the cost of the damage caused by the polluting of Brofiscan Quarry in South Wales. [154584]

Mr. Hain: None. However, a preliminary appraisal has been undertaken by the Environment Agency. I understand that the full remediation options cannot be finalised until all current inspection work is completed.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153247]

Mr. Hain: The information is as follows:

Dod's Companions, including National Assembly for Wales companion,
Vacher's Quarterly,
Economist,
The Spectator,
Tribune,
New Statesman,
Prospect,
Whitehall and Westminster World,
Private Eye,
Golwg,
Y Cymro, and
Welsh Farmer

SCOTLAND

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153200]

David Cairns: In 2006-07, the Scotland Office spent £9,421 on taxis. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Elections

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions have taken place since the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May between the Secretary of State and returning officers on the process of auto-adjudication used during the counting process. [155096]

David Cairns *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* None. The decision on the content of the user agreement in relation to how the system dealt with ballot papers, including auto-adjudication, was the responsibility of returning officers and the e-counting provider. The Scotland Office did not take any decisions on the inclusion of auto-adjudication. These matters will come within the scope of the independent review of the recent Scottish elections led by Mr. Ron Gould.

Historic Scotland: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many press officers are employed by Historic Scotland. [154160]

David Cairns: This is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive and Historic Scotland.

Holyrood Parliament Building

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of the construction costs of the Scottish Parliament building was provided from central Government funding. [156330]

David Cairns: The construction costs of the Scottish Parliament is a devolved matter.

The devolved administration and legislature in Scotland are funded through the Scottish block grant. This is paid for through general UK taxation and voted on by the UK Parliament. The costs of the Scottish Parliament building are met from within the block grant.

Voting Methods

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the Government's review of the experience of new voting systems will take account of information to be reported by the current Electoral Commission's review chaired by Ron Gould of the recent Scottish elections. [156189]

David Cairns: Yes.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACP and Developing Countries: Common Sugar Regime

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations his Department has received from African, Pacific and Caribbean countries on implementation of the reform of the Common Agricultural Sugar Policy. [154563]

Mr. Thomas: DFID Ministers and officials have had a productive and ongoing dialogue with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries on the issue of European Union (EU) sugar reforms. This has included meetings and correspondence and has covered the depth and pace of the reforms, the amount and allocation of transitional assistance and the implications for sugar of the EU's duty and quota free market access offer under the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA's).

Most recent communication between DFID and the ACP countries has been about the European Commission's proposal to terminate the sugar protocol (SP). A number of ACP countries have been concerned about the impacts of the ending of the protocol. However, it is a logical consequence of the EU internal sugar market reforms and the offer of duty and quota free market access as part of the EPAs.

We consider that the Commission's market access offer, on 4 April 2007 will provide, over time, real opportunities for ACP sugar exporters to expand exports to the EU.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect on sugar producers in developing countries of the implementation of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy sugar regime. [154542]

Mr. Thomas: In 2003 the European Commission undertook an impact assessment of the proposed reform of the European Union (EU) internal sugar market (this was formally adopted by the Agricultural Council in February 2006). In May 2006 DEFRA undertook a comprehensive regulatory impact assessment of the reform. This assessment looked at the potential impact of the reform on all stakeholders including African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries that supply sugar to the EU market under a preferential trade agreement. In addition DFID has commissioned a number of independent studies looking at the impacts of the reform on the sugar industry in developing countries, with particular emphasis on the least developed countries (LDC's).

The assessments and studies all suggest that the reform will present challenges for the ACP countries who will see the value of their preference decline. They also show that the reform will provide impetus for some of the ACP countries to move their economies away from large scale dependency on sugar and thereby provide long term economic benefit in the form of efficiency gains. However the assessment also suggests

the ACP countries will need financial assistance to help them diversify their economies and adapt to the reforms.

In response to these assessments DFID successfully lobbied the Commission to provide transitional assistance for the ACP countries. As a result of the lobbying the EU has earmarked around €1.244 billion between 2007 and 2013. Allocation of these funds is based on a national Sugar Action Plan submitted independently by the ACP countries. DFID has provided technical and financial support to a number of ACP countries to draw up their individual plans.

Departments: Public Private Partnerships

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to the public-private infrastructure advisory facility in each year since its inception. [154398]

Mr. Malik: DFID has supported the public private infrastructure advisory facility (PPIAF) over three phases since its inception in 1999. Our total commitment to PPIAF from 1999 to 2008 is £53.3 million, broken down annually as follows:

	£
1998-99	1,450,000
1999-2000	3,200,000
2000-01	5,895,287
2001-02	3,598,848
2002-03	8,209,761
2003-04	7,179,905
2004-05	6,525,733
2005-06	2,804,781
2006-07	7,487,555

International Assistance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to establish the first global roster for education in emergencies since the announcement of its establishment on 5 April. [154366]

Mr. Malik: At a UK-chaired donor/agencies meeting on 22 May 2007 in Geneva, UNICEF and the Save the Children Alliance (SCA), the lead agencies for education in emergencies, confirmed that establishing a global roster of education experts was the priority in a programme of measures they are leading to build the capacity of UN and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). DFID has discussed follow up on this with UNICEF and the SCA, and is monitoring progress closely.

DFID has also provided UNICEF with £4 million per year over four years to support their role in responding to emergencies. This includes building education response capacity through the Education Cluster Support Unit.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the £20 million funding announced on 5 April for activities in emergency and post-crisis countries over the next four to five years will be used to fund the first global roster for education in emergencies. [154367]

Mr. Malik: The programme of work to be covered by the £20 million announced on 5 April is currently being discussed by DFID and UNICEF. It has not yet been finalised.

North Korea

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and if he will make a statement. [154056]

Mr. Malik: We assessed the humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the end of August, in response to the flooding there. As a result of the assessment, DFID has contributed up to £700,000 in response to the Flash Appeal issued by the United Nations on 27 August. £650,000 has gone to programmes under way and being implemented by Save the Children UK and the World Food Programme. We have also offered support to the UN if required to assist with coordinating the relief effort, which is estimated to last a further three months.

North Korea: Non-Governmental Organisations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with AIDCO and ECHO on support for the work of non-governmental organisations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. [154064]

Mr. Malik: The most recent discussion DFID officials have had with the Commission was on 13 September in Brussels.

The Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) will close its programmes in North Korea in May 2008. This is primarily because the North Korean Government requested its donors to end humanitarian aid for the first time in August 2004 and then enforced it in August 2005.

AidCo will now assume the lead on the EU assistance programme, and they plan to allocate a total of €35 million between 2007 and 2010, including €8 million in 2007, largely concentrating on food security. Non-governmental organisations in Pyongyang (and possibly others not currently based in the country) will be bidding for a share of the €8 million. AidCo will take over responsibility from ECHO for the NGOs operating in North Korea.

Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department channelled through the *(a)* World Bank, *(b)* International Monetary Fund, *(c)* United Nations and *(d)* World Trade Organisation in each of the last 10 years. [154399]

Mr. Thomas: Data on DFID's multilateral assistance to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and United Nations over the last 10 years are

set out in the following table. The World Trade Organisation does not act as a donor but as a forum for trade negotiations and therefore no funding is channelled through it. These figures do not include the element of the DFID bilateral programme channelled through the listed multilateral organisations.

DFID multilateral assistance to World Bank, IMF and United Nations, 1997-98 to 2006-07

£000

	World Bank	IMF	United Nations
1997-98	189,815	20,000	131,658
1998-99	173,753	18,000	121,322
1999-2000	167,298	17,000	163,453
2000-01	270,680	—	226,938
2001-02	243,633	11,147	216,685
2002-03	240,083	11,434	184,651
2003-04	405,650	9,417	203,339
2004-05	248,684	1,767	214,421
2005-06	284,433	23,728	312,029
2006-07	610,970	15	307,953

Overseas Aid: Water

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided for water projects in the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* project and programme and *(b)* country. [154516]

Mr. Thomas: A detailed breakdown of DFID support for the water sector over the last five years can be found in the two reports titled "Financial Support to the Water Sector 2002 to 2004" and "Financial Support to the Water Sector 2004 to 2006", prepared for DFID by WS Atkins Plc. Both are available on DFID's website,

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Earlier data are not available on a comparable basis.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to provide assistance to Palestinians at the Rafah border crossing. [154592]

Mr. Malik: The 6,374 Palestinians who were stranded in Egypt due to the closure of the Rafah crossing returned to Gaza between 29 July and 12 August.

No DFID assistance was required.

South East Asia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance he made available to those countries in south-east Asia affected by the floods there. [156375]

Mr. Malik: DFID responded to the floods in south Asia and Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. We did not receive requests for assistance from south-east Asian states.

In Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, DFID contributed £650,000:

£500,000 through WFP to provide food, clean water and safeguard people against water borne diseases;

£149,422 to Save the Children for essential healthcare support;

We have also offered support to the UN if required to assist with coordinating the relief effort.

In south Asia DFID contributed over £5 million to help the worst affected countries:

In Bangladesh we contributed £2.1 million through the Chars Livelihood Programme, United Nations Development Programme and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) to provide food, water, emergency shelter and medicines to help more than one million people in the worst-affected districts;

In Pakistan, we contributed £2.2 million through the Pakistani Rural Support Programme Network, the United Nations, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) providing multi-sectoral immediate relief as well as livelihoods assistance;

In India, DFID gave Save the Children £750,000 to provide general relief items, health care and livelihood support, children's education and protection to 13,341 families (including 31,660 children).

Sudan: International Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the US$ 100 million promised to the Eastern Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund has been delivered; and what *(a)* reports he has received on and *(b)* assessment he has made of the work of the Fund's governing board. [153928]

Mr. Thomas: The Government of National Unity has allocated the required US$ 100 million to the Eastern Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund but this funding has yet to be disbursed. The structure of the Fund's governing board, which is detailed in Article 23 of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, has been agreed. However the executive director has not yet been appointed and as such the board is not operational. No reports have been received.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the number of civilians affected by the situation in Darfur and unable to access humanitarian aid due to the level of insecurity in the region; and if he will make a statement. [154696]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not make its own estimates but relies on those provided by the UN. The UN uses the number of people in need of emergency aid as its criterion for defining those who are affected by conflict. This figure currently stands at 4.2 million, including 2.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). There are some 500,000 people across Darfur who are cut off from all humanitarian assistance and protection services. For many of the others, access to aid is only sporadic and frequently interrupted by insecurity and attacks on humanitarian staff.

DFID condemns the continuing violence targeting civilians and humanitarian workers in Darfur and has called on all sides to cease the violence immediately; revise the ceasefire, engage constructively in the renewed political process and support the rapid deployment of the AU/UN peacekeeping force for Darfur.

UN High Commissioners for Refugees: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many press officers are employed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. [154724]

Mr. Malik: DFID is not responsible for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and therefore does not hold information regarding the number of press officers employed by them.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Clergy: Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1592W, on clergy: sexual offences, whether the information submitted to the Police Service of Northern Ireland by solicitors acting on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church was in the form of full details or summaries of allegations. [152817]

Paul Goggins: Solicitors acting on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church provided PSNI with details regarding the victims and their allegations. This information permitted PSNI to make contact with those victims and establish the full facts of each case. For legal reasons no further comment can be made at this stage.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153068]

Mr. Woodward: There are currently no special advisers employed in my Department.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been appointed to his Department outside Civil Service grades in the last 30 days. [153067]

Paul Goggins: From 1 July 2007 to date the Northern Ireland Office has not appointed any staff to its Department outside of civil service grades.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153066]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent £28,031 directly on taxis in 2006-07 (this is the last 12 months for which audited expenditure figures are available). However, where members of staff meet the cost of taxi fares out of their own pocket and reclaim the amount from the Department, such sums are grouped with other incidental expenses e.g. car parking. It would not be possible to extract the taxi element from these figures except at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business class flights in the last 12 months. [153064]

Mr. Woodward: £781,170 was spent on business class travel, and a further £60,908 was spent on foreign flights in 2006-07 (this is the last 12 months for which audited figures are available). It is not possible to disaggregate the amount spent on flights to foreign destination by class except at disproportionate cost.

In January of this year the Department introduced arrangements for the greater use of economy class flights.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153060]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, spent £85,000 on industrial tribunals in 2006-07 (this is the last 12 months for which audited expenditure figures are available).

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151659]

Mr. Woodward: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, since April 2004 my Department has recorded the total cost of overseas travel by air and train by Ministers and officials. This information is set out in the following table. The majority of the journeys in question were made between the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Information on the cost of car travel between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is not held centrally.

	Flights	Cost (£)	Rail	Cost (£)	Total (£)
April 2004 to December 2004	186	146,770.93	112	5,079.64	151,850.57
January 2005 to December 2005	313	268,801.48	60	3,003.19	271,804.67
January 2006 to December 2006	196	181,005.94	173	9,650.74	190,656.68
January 2007 to June 2007	111	129,568.49	92	3,553.50	133,121.99

In addition, since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Sexual Offences: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answers of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 20-2W, on sexual offences and 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1398-9W, on Northern Ireland: convictions, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the conviction rate for rape being lower than for all offences; what meetings he has had with *(a)* the Police Service of Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Public Prosecution Service and *(c)* women's support or rape crisis groups to discuss ways of increasing the conviction rate; and what plans he has to increase the conviction rate for rape. [152818]

Paul Goggins: We remain committed to reviewing the effectiveness of case handling and improving support services to victims and survivors of sexual violence to help them cope with the traumatic impact of the offence and assist them in giving their best evidence in court.

PSNI, with assistance from the Public Prosecution Service, has recently reviewed the management of a range of rape cases in order to find ways of improving the investigation of such cases. Preliminary findings are being analysed.

A regional strategy for sexual violence, which was the subject of extensive consultation and workshops involving statutory and voluntary sector agencies, victims' groups and the general public, is due to be published by the end of the year by the NIO and DHSSPS. It will specifically examine factors which contribute to the attrition rate in relation to sexual offences and identify ways to address under reporting of offences, further improve inter-agency case management and develop services which meet the needs of victims of sexual violence.

One of the strategy's key measures already announced ahead of formal publication is the development, by a multi-agency steering group involving victims' group Nexus, of Northern Ireland's first sexual assault referral centre. The SARC will build on the valuable services currently available in police child abuse and rape inquiry suites to deliver a more coordinated response to the needs of victims by providing immediate medical aftercare and individual counselling and other support services while also facilitating the preservation of forensic evidence to assist in the successful prosecution of offenders.

Vetting: Applications

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Criminal Records Check applications were received in each of the last three calendar years, broken down by category; how many have been received in 2007; what the trend is in average processing times during this period; how many staff are involved in undertaking this work; and what the budget is for the work in 2007-08. [155355]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI has advised that they are currently unable to provide accurate figures for vetting requests received prior to February 2007, due to technical difficulties. The PSNI is working to rectify this, and I have asked the Chief Constable to keep me updated on progress.

A total of 80,119 applications were received between February and August 2007. The fall annual total is expected to be approximately 150,000. The following table gives a breakdown by category.

Presently the PSNI vetting section has 10 staff. In 2007-08 the work is expected to cost £184,000 excluding overheads.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland aims to turnaround 90 per cent. of vetting applications within 15 working days. This target has been met in previous years, but due to the technical difficulty noted above, is not being met at present. Additional resources have been dedicated to improving this performance, and progress towards the target is being monitored.

Vetting applications received by PSNI in period February to August 2007

Source	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Compensation Agency—Pink	4	2	1	6	9	0	0
Compensation Agency—White	973	451	894	385	0	587	550
Compensation Agency—Faxes	18	22	43	29	0	24	0
Education	6,383	3,125	2,090	1,479	1,396	2,332	3,034
Child Care—Statutory Bodies	2,447	1,680	1,147	930	1,219	1,498	—
Child Care Unit—Voluntary	3,294	2,747	3,272	3,153	2,039	2,514	4,379
Student Placements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police Ombudsman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Service Vehicles	1,215	1,274	1,012	1,011	1,127	624	940

Vetting applications received by PSNI in period February to August 2007

Source	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*
Disclosure Scotland	215	252	217	247	236	424	0
Other Police Forces	191	190	93	204	0	0	0
Pre-Employment Consultancy Service	590	798	801	789	1,031	770	295
Training Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probation Service—Child Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms	5	2	0	4	0	1	1
Force Alarms	45	46	48	43	49	80	70
PNC Checks	55	40	53	33	30	26	0
Probation Checks	0	0	0	0	0	13	0
City Airport	99	91	85	95	184	81	27
International Airport	286	298	149	279	317	208	0
Door Supervisors	82	51	44	39	43	9	0
Social Care Council	576	366	256	72	51	121	512
Street Traders	2	10	6	12	6	0	0
Community Affairs—Voluntary Sector	10	20	3	11	12	12	5
Garda/Interpol	0	0	0	0	152	225	0
Housing Executive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bombardier	12	18	11	27	10	56	34
NI Electricity	0	40	7	43	16	15	10
Ranstad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civil Service	811	380	485	711	418	140	372
Civil Service Contracts	0	206	181	345	284	152	0
NI Assembly	58	102	53	115	52	48	22
NI Court Service	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
PNC—recruiting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PNC—NI Security Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Service	0	0	10	109	123	80	48
Legal Services	0	0	12	4	14	3	0
Environment and Heritage	0	0	7	2	6	3	0
Youth Justice Agency	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Fire Brigade	0	0	0	7	8	4	0
Others	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subject Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CRB	0	0	762	0	0	0	0
Total	17,420	12,211	11,742	10,184	8,837	9,426	10,299
Total in period				80,119			

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mobile phone masts are on the Valuation Office Agency's ratings list in England. [155694]

John Healey: The number of non-domestic hereditaments shown in the Rating Lists of England, under the description of Communication Station as at 26 September 2007 is 27,428. This figure includes all mast sites including mobile, telecommunications and broadcast sites. A break down to show the numbers of mobile phone sites could be delivered only at a disproportionate cost.

Allotments: Liability

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities in relation to public liability and allotments. [155687]

Mr. Iain Wright: In June 2001 the Department (then DETR), the LGA, Shell Better Britain Campaign and the GLA jointly published a 'Growing in the Community: A Good Practice Guide for the Management of Allotments' for local authorities—a free copy was circulated to all local authorities. The aim of the guide was to raise standards in the provision, management and care of allotments and the guide has a section on public liability insurance. The guide recommends that local authorities obtain further advice on public liability from representative bodies such as the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners who provide free legal advice to members.

The guide is currently being updated by the LGA in consultation with the Department and will be published later this year.

More general advice on health and safety on allotments is available in 'Allotments: A Plot Holders Guide' which was published by the Department in June 2007, and in the Health and Safety facts sheet published by the Allotment Regeneration Initiative.

Allotments: Sales

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* approvals and *(b)* rejections of the sale or disposal of allotments under the Allotments Act 1925 have been made by her and her predecessor since May 2007. [152520]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have been advised by the Government Offices that between 1 May 2007 and 20 September 2007 there have been 10 approvals of the sale or disposal of allotments:

"Former" allotment land at Hollin Lane/Rochdale Road, Middleton, Rochdale.

Turnsdale Allotment, County Durham—sale of one allotment plot which is continuing as an allotment.

Days Field, Breckland—5.09 acres (replacement sites have been made available).

Shoulder of Mutton, Breckland—3.47 acres (replacement sites have been made available).

South Acton Estate, Ealing, London.

Finnigan Road Allotment, Plymouth—sale of an 0.1 acre overgrown vacant plot for addition to garden of adjoining house.

Whitton Church Land field, Ipswich (land not used for allotment purposes since before 1985)—to provide more football pitches in the locality.

Bucklands Way Allotments, Sutton, London—temporary one year licence for occupation of land/hut which forms part of the allotment site.

Church Fields Allotments Land, Surrey Heath—land given over to additional burial ground.

Carshalton Athletic FC, War Memorial Sports Ground, Sutton, London.

There have been no rejections of the sale of allotments.

There are currently a total of 34 application cases which are pending decision.

Audit Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers are employed by the Audit Commission. [154150]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission. The Chief Executive of the Audit Commission has written to the hon. Member.

Council Housing: Overcrowding

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants in London are classed as living in overcrowded accommodation. [154383]

Mr. Iain Wright: Based on data derived from the Survey of English Housing it is estimated that over the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 an average of 62,000 households living in council housing in London were in overcrowded conditions, as defined by the Bedroom Standard.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average waiting time was for council housing in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [154814]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on average waiting time on a housing list for households is not held centrally. While information is collected centrally on the number of households on local authority housing waiting lists, which is given in the annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), there is no indication of average time spent on a waiting list.

The accuracy of the list also depends on the extent to which housing authorities keep the register up-to-date, e.g. some people might already have found housing, yet remain on the list. It is also important to bear in mind that not everyone on the waiting list will necessarily be in urgent housing need. It will also include those who consider social housing as their preferred choice, or one of a number of housing options.

Council Tax: South East Government Office

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the council tax collection rates of *(a)* Gravesham, *(b)* other councils in Kent and *(c)* other councils in the South East Government Office in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [154569]

Mr. Dhanda: The collection and enforcement of council tax is a matter for individual billing authorities. Communities and Local Government has made no assessment of the collection rates in the last 10 years for Gravesham, other councils in Kent or other councils in the South East. Across England, in-year collection of council tax rose for the seventh successive year in 2006-07, to 96.9 per cent. of the total collectable.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on departmental travel, what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of the visits to (i) the US and (ii) Kenya; and how many staff went on each visit. [153724]

Hazel Blears: The visit to the US cost £7,021 and was for two staff to share best practice with policy and law enforcement practitioners and community organisations working on integration/cohesion and preventing violent extremism and to deliver two lectures on these subjects.

The Kenya visit cost £2,898 and was for one member of staff to attend the UN Habitat Governing Council as part of the UK delegation.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 957W, on Departments: Legislation, which *(a)* sections and *(b)* schedules of the specified acts have (i) been repealed and (ii) not been brought into force. [154205]

Mr. Iain Wright: Pursuant to the answer given on 24 July, *Official Report*, column 957W, provisions in acts sponsored by Communities and Local Government not yet in force or repealed are set out in the following table.

Statute in force	*Provisions not yet in force*	*Repealed provisions*
Local Government(Contracts) Act 1997	None	s.1(3)(c), s.10, s.12
Local Government Finance(Supplementary Credit Approvals) Act 1997	None	Act wholly repealed
Regional Development Agencies Act 1998	None	Sch. 5
Local Government Act 1999	None	s.8(1), s.22(2), s.22(7), s.24(3), s.31
Greater London Authority Act 1999	s.63, s.123, s.199, s.302, s.405, s.406, s.408, s.411, s.413 (in force only in so far as the section concerns any power of a minister to make regulations or an order); s.287(2); s.325 (in force only to the extent that it relates to para. 106 of Sch.1 and paras.69, 84(1), (3) and 105 of Sch.27); s.423 (in force only to the extent that it relates to Sch.34); Sch.27 (only para. 106 in force); Sch.32	s.21(3) and (4), s.52(7), s.66, s.86(3), s.108(2), s.111-118, s.156(1), s.175(4), s.201, s.203, s.204, s.219, s.235(2)(h), s.235(3)(d) and (e), s.235(6), s.242(9), s.252(1), s.283(2) and (4), s.284, s.286, s.310(2), s.326, s.330, s.337(10), s.352(3)(b), s.353(3), s.361, s.378(11)(e), s.391, s.425(3)
Local Government Act 2000	s.96	s.7(2)(a), s.62(7)(b) (partially), s.68(4) and (5) (partially), s.83(1) (partially), s.94, s.95, s.102(1), s.104, Sch.5 paras. 14, 16, 17, 21 and 29
Rating (Former Agricultural Premises and Rural Shops) Act 2001	None	s.1(4)
Homelessness Act 2002	s.11 (applies only to Wales)	None
Fire Services Act 2003	None	s.3(2)(b), s.3(3), s.3(4)(e)
Regional Assemblies (Preparations) Act 2003	None	Sch.1 para.1
Local Government Act 2003	s.3(1)-(4), (8), (9), (11) in England, s.68, s.69	s.23(1)(i), s.33(1)(h), s.100(2)(f), s.101(7)(b), s.109(2), s.119, s.121, Sch.7 paras. 1,5(3) and (5), 52(4), 66 and 67
Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004	None	s.27, s.44(3) and (4), Sch.1 para. 55
Housing Act 2004	s.104-122, s.124-131, 132(1)-(5), s.133 (all of which are not in force in England), Sch.11 paras. 15 and 16, Sch.15 para. 7(3)(b) and (4)(b), Sch.15 para. 37(2)(c) and (d), Sch.15 para.45(2)(a), Sch.16 brought into force only in relation to England (by SIs 2005/326, 2066/1060 and 2007/1068) and Wales (SIs 2005/1814 and 2006/1535)	s.209-211, s.288(2)-(4), Sch.14, Sch.15 paras. 1, 7, 37, 45 and 46
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	s.43 in part (some provisions commenced by SI 2005/2081):s.45, s. 46-48, s.50, and parts of Schedules 6, 7 and 9 (in force for certain purposes only, see SI 2004/2097).	s.60(7)

Departments: Ministerial Responsibilities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ministerial responsibilities of each of her ministerial team are. [156516]

Hazel Blears: The ministerial responsibilities of each member of the CLG ministerial team are outlined as follows.

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Right hon. Hazel Blears MP

Overall responsibility for the Department and its policies, including departmental strategic objectives (DSOs); public service agreement (PSA) targets; comprehensive spending review settlement

Empowering communities and citizens

Olympics legacy

Minister for Housing

Yvette Cooper MP

Lead responsibility for: housing policy and programmes (Homebuy and shared ownership, low and zero-carbon housing, eco-towns, homelessness, HMR pathfinders, social housing, HIPs), including housing elements of the comprehensive spending review and PSAs; and planning reform (town and country planning); and representing the Department in Cabinet on these areas of policy

Physical and housing-related regeneration and sponsor minister for new Homes Agency implementation

Housing and Regeneration Bill

Urban policy and design

Sustainable development and climate change: including the code for sustainable homes and building regulations

Minister for the Thames Gateway, new growth points and growth areas

Olympics legacy issues

Minister for Local Government

John Healey MP

Lead responsibility for local government policy and finance, including local government pensions and Supporting People

Cities and regions (including lead minister for the Greater London Authority Bill)

Government offices

Neighbourhood renewal and tackling disadvantage (including neighbourhood renewal fund; new deal for communities; LEGI)

Planning for major infrastructure, and the Planning Bill

Resilience and recovery from flooding

Overview of fire and rescue service

Community engagement and empowerment; Quirk review

Overview of liveability

Joint Chair of the London Resilience Forum

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Parmjit Dhanda MP

Cohesion (including joint chair of Migration Impacts Forum)

Preventing violent extremism

Fire and rescue service

Support on local government policy and finance (including local government pensions)

Sponsor Minister for Valuation Tribunal Service

Planning casework for East Midlands; East; London; South East; Olympics cases; (includes all cases in the growth areas)

Support on planning for major infrastructure, and the Planning Bill

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Iain Wright MP

Support on all aspects of housing policy and programmes and town and country planning, and physical and housing-related regeneration, including decent homes, housing market renewal, and homelessness

Support for Housing and Regeneration Bill

Support on urban policy and urban design; code for sustainable homes; building regulations

Climate change and sustainable development

Ordnance Survey (shareholder Minister)

Phone masts

Sponsor for Audit Commission

Gypsies and Travellers

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Baroness Andrews of Southover

Departmental business in the House of Lords

Responsibility for departmental contribution to the Respect agenda

Support on Supporting People (including individual budgets)

Support on neighbourhood renewal and tackling disadvantage (including neighbourhood renewal fund; new deal for communities; LEGI)

Liveability

Planning casework for Yorkshire and Humber; North East; South West; West Midlands; North West

Planning inspectorate sponsor

Ordnance Survey (client Minister)

Disabled facilities grant

National strategy for an ageing society

Third sector strategy

Supporting on community engagement and empowerment; Quirk review

Digital inclusion

Champion Minister for culture and regeneration

Departments: Private Finance Initiatives

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private finance initiatives projects her Department expects to sign in each of the next three years. [154452]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of local authority private finance initiative projects sponsored by Communities and Local Government which are expected to be signed in each of the next three years are as follows:

	Projects
2008-09	14
2009-10	11
2010-11	5

The above estimate is based on the current project timetables submitted by the relevant Communities and Local Government sponsored local authorities taking forward PFI projects.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153217]

Mr. Iain Wright: The cost of redundancies (including voluntary redundancies) of staff leaving the central part of the Department for Communities and Local Government during the 12 months to 30 June 2007 was £21.6 million.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153219]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has spent £2,042,054 on staff training in the last 12 months. Details of communication training are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Derelict Land: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of new homes were built on brownfield sites in each London borough in each of the last five years. [154812]

Mr. Iain Wright: Statistics for the period 2001 to 2005 (the most recent and statistically robust available) for the percentage of new dwellings (not including

conversions) built on previously-developed ("brownfield") land are shown in the following table. The figure for the whole of London is 94 per cent.

Percentage of dwellings built on previously-developed land, in London 2001-05

	Percentage
Barking and Dagenham	84
Barnet	93
Bexley	87
Brent	85
Bromley	90
Camden	93
City of London	100
Croydon	99
Baling	90
Enfield	92
Greenwich	95
Hackney	99
Hammersmith and Fulham	100
Haringey	100
Harrow	86
Havering	96
Hillingdon	88
Hounslow	93
Islington	99
Kensington and Chelsea	99
Kingston upon Thames	94
Lambeth	94
Lewisham	99
Merton	90
Newham	82
Redbridge	97
Richmond upon Thames	98
Southwark	94
Sutton	99
Tower Hamlets	98
Waltham Forest	94
Wandsworth	100
Westminster	100

Emergency Services: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the role played by the Gloucestershire tri-service centre during recent floods and water shortages. [154929]

John Healey: *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* A review of the wider lessons learned is to be carried out by the Cabinet Office, with support from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Communities and Local Government. This will examine the emergency response to the floods in June and July and consider how to reduce the risk and impact of floods in the future. The role performed by the Gloucestershire tri-service centre will be taken into account as part of this wider exercise.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the decision to break up the Gloucestershire tri-service centre. [154930]

John Healey *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Gloucestershire tri-service centre will not be broken up. The centre will continue to house staff from all three emergency services and support tri-service working after the control room of the fire and rescue service is moved to the South West Regional Control Centre. The Government are committed to creating a new national network of nine resilient regional control centres which will enhance the ability of the Fire and Rescue Service to respond to major incidents and natural disasters in a co-ordinated, efficient and effective manner. We believe that the public will be better protected by this approach. The new Regional Control Centres will however build on the valuable lessons learnt on joint working from the tri-service pilots, including the recent experience of dealing with flooding in Gloucestershire.

English Partnerships: Information Officers

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers are employed by English Partnerships. [154459]

Mr. Iain Wright: English Partnerships does not employ press officers. It does however have six corporate communications officer posts in its headquarters which deal with press and media inquiries as part of their remit. One of these posts is currently vacant.

Equality: EC Action

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the UK Government have received a reasoned opinion from the European Commission on the implementation of the race equality directive (2000/43/CE); and if she will make a statement. [154013]

Mr. Dhanda: The UK received a reasoned opinion from the European Commission concerning the implementation of Council Directive 2000/43/EC ("the Race directive") on 29 June 2007. The Commission argued that the UK had not fully transposed the Race directive in relation to the definition of indirect discrimination, and because there was a lack of transparency over the remedies available to victims of instructions to discriminate. The Government replied to the Commission on 24 August confirming that it would amend domestic law to clarify the situation and meet the Commission's concerns. We intend to lay regulations before Parliament shortly.

First Time Buyers: Age

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the mean age of a first-time buyer was in each year since 1997. [155857]

Mr. Iain Wright: The mean age of a first-time buyer is not collected. The average age of a first-time buyer in the UK is available on the Council of Mortgage Lenders website at http://www.cml. org.uk/cml/filegrab/2ML2.xls?ref=4624

These figures are also presented in the following table.

Median age of first-time buyers, UK

	Median age
1997	29
1998	29
1999	30
2000	30
2001	30
2002	31
2003	31
2004	31
2005	30
2006	29

Source:
CML.

Floods: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requests she received in July 2007 for assistance with flooding recovery and humanitarian aid by Bassetlaw District Council *(a)* in writing, *(b)* by e-mail and *(c)* by telephone. [153854]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government have been in regular contact with all the local authorities who have been affected by the floods and this includes Bassetlaw district council

Contact with Bassetlaw district council has included collecting information to inform understanding of the impact of the flooding in the district and specific information to contribute to the decision making process for the provision of the Flood Recovery Grant. On the basis of the relative number of households affected (based on the available information at the time) Bassetlaw district council was allocated £250,000 in Flood Recovery Grant (£200,000 on 13 July and £50,000 on 20 July).

In addition, on 27 June 2007 Bassetlaw district council notified Communities and Local Government of their intention to claim under the Bellwin scheme for the June floods. The Bellwin scheme provides emergency financial assistance from Government to local authorities to help meet the uninsurable costs of immediate action to safeguard life or property or prevent severe inconvenience to inhabitants in the case of an emergency or disaster such as the floods.

Floods: EC Grants and Loans

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what European Union assistance is available to help rebuild communities damaged by floodwater; and if she will make a statement; [153309]

(2) what plans the Government have to apply for EU funding assistance to help communities rebuild after the recent flooding; and what the deadline is for applying for any such assistance. [153310]

John Healey: On 20 August 2007, UK submitted an application to the European Commission for support from the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) to help recovery from the recent flooding.

Greenbelt: Databases

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the Green Belt Boundary Layer was removed from her Department's Maps On Tap database March 2007 data update. [153907]

Mr. Iain Wright: The green belt boundary data held by the Maps on Tap database was removed as the license to use this commercial product has been cancelled.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 164W, on home information packs, what payments her Department and its predecessor have made to *(a)* Rightmove and *(b)* Countrywide for advice, research or consultancy on home information packs. [152541]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has not made any such payments to Rightmove or Countrywide.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 164W, on home information packs, what payments her Department and its predecessor made to *(a)* Rightmove and *(b)* Countryside for pilot schemes relating to home information packs. [152675]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has not made any such payments to Rightmove or Countrywide.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings Ministers from her Department have had with the Association of Home Information Pack Providers in the last 12 months. [152833]

Yvette Cooper: I have met with the Association of Home Information Pack Providers (AHIPP) on a number of occasions, most recently on 6 September 2007. I have also had similar meetings with other representative bodies and we are continuing to work closely with all key stakeholders on HIPs and EPCs.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from *(a)* Flint Bishop solicitors and *(b)* Labour Legal Services in the last 12 months on home information packs. [153525]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government has no record of representations received from Flint Bishop solicitors or Labour Legal Services in the last 12 months on home information packs.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* energy performance certificates may include the unique property reference number or a BS7666-compliant address of the domestic dwelling. [153795]

Yvette Cooper: Energy performance certificates include a unique property reference number, which is generated by the Register Operator. Neither this nor a BS7666-compliant address is included in a HIP.

Home Information Packs: Valuation Office

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Valuation Office Agency has not been granted access to the home condition report database. [152516]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1400W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) regarding access to home condition reports.

Homelessness: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* South Cambridgeshire and *(b)* East Cambridgeshire were accepted as homeless in each year since 1997. [153763]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people.

Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation.

This data is published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, which includes a Supplementary Table showing the breakdown of key data, including acceptances, by each local authority. This table is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 September 2007 and contains data for the period April to June 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

A summary table showing the total number of households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty for East and South Cambridgeshire is as follows.

Number of households accepted[1] as owed a main homelessness duty during the year 1997-98 to 2006-07

	East Cambridgeshire	*South Cambridgeshire*
1997-98	92	80
1998-99	167	67
1999-2000	180	85
2000-01	208	125
2001-02	207	148
2002-03	150	103
2003-04	185	129
2004-05	192	116
2005-06	139	122
2006-07	152	87

[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty

Source:
CLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Homelessness: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of people were *(a)* homeless and *(b)* on the council housing waiting list in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [154806]

Mr. Iain Wright: The first table shows (i) the number of households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, and (ii) this number as a percentage of total households in the area, for each London borough for the last 10 financial years (from 1997-98 to 2006-07).

Information on numbers of households, rather than people, is reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation, and includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation.

The second table shows (i) the total number of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists (i.e. not just those that are homeless), and (ii) this number as a percentage of total households in the area, for each London borough for the last 10 calendar years (from 1997 to 2006).

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. Note that the figures include all households on the waiting list, and not only those that are homeless.

Table (a): Number and percentage of households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty in each London borough

(i) Number of households accepted[1] as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, 1997-98 to 2006-07

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Barking and Dagenham	65	257	230	234	346	595	667	775	345	[1]—
Barnet	872	1,027	1,103	1,159	1,112	[2]—	1,084	758	[2]–	471
Bexley	285	319	275	359	454	468	365	430	270	251
Brent	1,164	[2]–	1,040	1,146	1,236	1,039	897	795	813	738
Bromley	610	728	839	881	785	865	873	[2]–	718	621
Camden	1,422	1,555	1,338	1,021	1,120	1,290	1,648	1,148	697	322
City of London	44	53	64	17	12	31	22	31	19	12
Croydon	[2]–	814	1,219	1,886	1,198	1,291	1,240	1,126	581	340
Ealing	1,068	1,016	989	1,026	860	1,001	1,094	789	662	442
Enfield	743	754	793	1,007	1,143	1,186	1,085	[2]–	852	768
Greenwich	1,270	1,403	1,242	1,227	1,217	1,003	1,246	1,157	970	610
Hackney	676	705	963	[2]–	[2]–	1,136	[2]–	1,153	[2]–	774
Hammersmith and Fulham	598	709	895	918	805	811	644	653	430	443
Haringey	1,157	975	[2]–	1,436	1,138	[2]–	[2]–	1,175	1,128	585
Harrow	690	720	670	701	444	400	264	96	120	159
Havering	283	[2]–	[2]–	[2]–	[2]–	180	452	200	[2]–	264
Hillingdon	932	914	686	1,003	1,119	933	735	461	396	311
Hounslow	858	[2]–	1,003	945	1,383	852	691	891	674	466
Islington	949	[2]–	1,298	1,556	1,428	1,314	[2]–	1,130	[2]–	686
Kensington and Chelsea	594	[2]–	533	658	593	410	476	589	299	269
Kingston upon Thames	437	[2]–	306	421	[2]–	448	418	[2]–	[2]–	230
Lambeth	779	1,039	1,124	1,110	1,470	1,651	1,545	1,644	1,277	735
Lewisham	[2]–	1,085	1,248	[2]–	1,102	1,170	1,502	1,245	1,097	744
Merton	186	205	242	168	173	156	204	261	215	107
Newham	[2]–	1,383	1,411	1,596	1,449	1,433	1,519	[2]–	1,422	428
Redbridge	322	302	450	[2]–	437	[2]–	806	[2]–	599	410
Richmond upon Thames	584	633	432	343	399	325	316	279	254	152
Southwark	890	1,204	1,614	1,702	1,317	1,827	1,540	1,668	1,039	723
Sutton	274	299	513	429	462	429	312	272	219	215
Tower Hamlets	971	1,070	1,130	1,282	1,401	1,617	1,657	1,151	789	864
Waltham Forest	880	[2]–	856	1,024	1,121	1,140	1,025	800	769	696
Wandsworth	440	[2]–	[2]–	886	927	1,072	1,036	840	680	589
Westminster		1,266	1,152	1,074	1,176	1,132	1,117	1,112	970	662

(ii)- Percentage of households accepted[1] as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, out of total number of households in each Borough, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Percentage

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Barking and Dagenham	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.9	1 0	1 2	0.5	[2]–
Barnet	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	[2]–	0.8	0.6	[2]–	0.4
Bexley	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3
Brent	1.3	[2]–	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7
Bromley	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	[2]–	0.6	0.5
Camden	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.2	0.7	0.3
City of London	1.4	1.5	1.7	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2
Croydon	[2]–	0.6	0.9	1 .4	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.2
Ealing	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.4
Enfield	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	[2]–	0.8	0.7
Greenwich	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.6
Hackney	0.9	0.9	1.2	[2]–	[2]–	1.3	[2]–	1.3	[2]–	0.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.6

(ii)- Percentage of households accepted[1] as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, out of total number of households in each Borough, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Percentage

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Haringey	1.3	1.1	[2]	1.6	1.2	[2]	[2]	1.2	1.2	0.6
Harrow	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Havering	0.3	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	0.2	0.5	0.2	[2]	0.3
Hillingdon	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3
Hounslow	1.1	[2]	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.6
Islington	1.2	[2]	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.6	[2]	1.4	[2]	0.8
Kensington and Chelsea	0.9	[2]	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3
Kingston upon Thames	0.8	[2]	0.5	0.7	[2]	0.7	0.7	[2]	[2]	0.4
Lambeth	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.6
Lewisham	[2]	1.1	1.2	[2]	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.7
Merton	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Newham	[2]	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	[2]	1.5	0.5
Redbridge	0.4	0.3	0.5	[2]	0.5	[2]	0.9	[2]	0.6	0.4
Richmond upon Thames	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Southwark	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.5	0.9	0.7
Sutton	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Tower Hamlets	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.4	0.9	1.0
Waltham Forest	1.0	[2]	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8
Wandsworth	0.4	[2]	[2]	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5
Westminster	[2]	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.6

[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.
[2] Denotes data not reported
Note:
Mid-year estimates. 2005-06 and 2006-07 figures based on latest mid-year estimate (2004)
Source:
CLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Housing Associations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the legal status is of housing associations. [154384]

Mr. Iain Wright: The term "housing association" is defined in section 1 of the Housing Associations Act 1985 for the purposes of that Act as:

"A society, body of trustees, or company—

(a) which is established for the purpose of, or amongst whose objects or powers are included those of, providing, constructing, improving or managing, or facilitating or encouraging the construction or improvement of, housing accommodation, and

(b) which does not trade for profit or whose constitution or rules prohibit the issue of capital with interest or dividend exceeding such rate as may be prescribed by the Treasury, whether with or without differentiation as between share and loan capital."

Housing Corporation: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers are employed by the Housing Corporation. [154423]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation currently employs two press officers.

Housing Green Paper

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hard copies of the 2007 Housing Green Paper were printed and then discarded following the last minute changes to the document. [153813]

Mr. Iain Wright: No copies were printed then discarded.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of a zero carbon residential dwelling. [153869]

Mr. Iain Wright: As set out in "Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement", a zero carbon home means that, over a year, the net carbon emissions from all energy use in the home would be zero. This would include energy use from cooking, washing and electronic appliances as well as space heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and hot water.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment

(a) her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made of the effect on construction costs of building a zero-carbon home. [155689]

Mr. Iain Wright: A regulatory impact assessment, which sets out the range of estimated costs associated with the zero carbon homes policy, as set out in Building a Greener Future Policy Statement, was published on 23 July 2007 and is available on the Department's website.

Housing: Construction

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county have approved (i) local development framework core strategies and (ii) housing allocation development plan documents. [152641]

Mr. Iain Wright: 14 local planning authorities have been issued with final inspectors' reports finding their core strategy development plan documents sound. 12 of these authorities have now proceeded to adoption of their core strategy. These are set out in the following table.

Region (a)	*County (b)*	*Local Planning Authority*	*Title(i)*	*Adopted*
East	Norfolk	Broads	Core Strategy	Awaited
East	Cambridgeshire	South Cambridgeshire	Core Strategy	Yes
North East	Northumberland	Blyth Valley	Core Strategy	Yes
North East	Unitary Authority (North Yorkshire)	Redcar and Cleveland	Core Strategy	Yes
North East	Tyne and Wear	South Tyneside	Core Strategy	Yes
South East	West Sussex	Crawley	Core Strategy	Awaited
South East	Surrey	Epsom and Ewell	Core Strategy	Yes
South East	Hampshire	Hampshire	Minerals and Waste Core Strategy	Yes
South East	West Sussex	Horsham	Core Strategy	Yes
South East	Kent	Tonbridge and Malling	Core Strategy	No
South West	Devon	Mid Devon	Core Strategy	Yes
South West	Devon	Plymouth	Core Strategy	Yes
South West	Devon	South Hampshire	Core Strategy	Yes
Yorkshire and the Humber	North Yorkshire	Hambleton	Core Strategy	Yes

Seven local planning authorities have been issued with final reports finding their area action plans sound. These area action plans have included housing allocations as part of the development plan document. The seven relevant authorities have all proceeded to adoption. These are set out in the following table.

Region (a)	*County (b)*	*Local Planning Authority*	*Title (ii)*	*Adopted*
East	Cambridgeshire	South Cambridgeshire	Northstowe Area Action Plan	Yes
North East	Tyne and Wear	Newcastle	Walker Riverside Area Action Plan	Yes
South West	Devon	Plymouth	North Plymstock Area Action Plan	Yes
South West	Devon	Plymouth	Millbay/ Stonehouse Area Action Plan	Yes
South West	Devon	Plymouth	Devonport Area Action Plan	Yes
South West	Devon	South Hampshire	Sherford Area Action Plan	Yes
West Midlands	Staffordshire	Staffordshire Moorlands	BiddulphTown Centre Area Action Plan	Yes

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the number of house building starts and completions there have been in each of the last four quarters. [155530]

Yvette Cooper: The latest statistics on new house building were published on the 16 August: Communities and Local Government Statistical Release: "House building: April to June Quarter 2007".

Housing: Databases

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public sector bodies are entitled to undertake *(a)* primary disclosures and *(b)* secondary disclosure of information from (i) the Home Condition Report database and (ii) the Energy Performance Certificate database. [153785]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1400W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), regarding disclosure of Home Condition Reports.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 161W, to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Mr. Gove), regarding disclosure of Energy Performance Certificates.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* home condition reports and *(b)* energy performance certificates (EPCs) that will be lodged on the respective online registers once (i) home information packs are required for all homes and (ii) EPCs are required for rented and social domestic dwellings. [153796]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 25 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 160W, given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles). We will be monitoring the take-up on Home Condition Report.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive—Articles 7-10 published on 29 March 2007 details the estimated number of energy performance certificates that will be lodged in the register by sector.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the URLs are for the *(a)* Energy Performance Certificate database and *(b)* Home Condition Report database. [153914]

Yvette Cooper: The URLs are for the Energy Performance Certificate database and Home Condition Report database are www.epcregister.com and www.hcrregister.com.

Housing: Empty Properties

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes in the private and social sectors she plans to bring back into use; and if she will make a statement. [153792]

Yvette Cooper: We are committed to reducing the number of empty homes and in particular the number of homes that are left empty for long periods of time. The Government do not set a national target for the number of empty homes to be brought back into use as this can be affected by local housing market conditions. However, the Housing Green Paper makes it clear that local authorities should do more to tackle empty homes and we are exploring ways to achieve an increase in activity. We consider that all local authorities should have in place comprehensive strategies on how they intend to deal with empty homes. Many local authorities set their own empty homes targets.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on her plans to encourage a greater take-up of empty dwelling management orders. [153793]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Green Paper makes it clear that local authorities should do more to tackle empty homes as part of a wider strategy of increasing housing supply and we are exploring and consulting on ways to achieve this. We consider that all local authorities should have in place strategies on how they intend to deal with empty homes. We expect such strategies to identify and address the different reasons for empty homes.

Enforcement action to bring empty homes back into use should only be considered as a last resort when voluntary measures have proved unsuccessful. We are therefore keen to ensure that local authorities adopt empty dwelling management orders as part of a comprehensive strategy that encompasses a wide range of options.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there were in *(a)* South Cambridgeshire and *(b)* East Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years. [153764]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates for vacant dwellings in the local authority areas of East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire since 2002 are tabulated. These include vacancies up to six months and long term vacancies over six months. These are as reported by local authorities through the Council Tax Base (CTB1) form and present vacant dwellings receiving some or a full discount on council tax.

	East Cambridgeshire	*South Cambridgeshire*
November		
2002	971	1,366
2003	964	1,650
2004	1,020	1,764
October		
2005	784	1,486
2006	911	1,538

Housing: Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether research has been conducted by her Department and its predecessor into the manner in which the EU directive on energy performance certificates has been implemented in other EU member states. [153717]

Yvette Cooper: The UK is as a member state committed to the implementation of the European Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings. It participates fully in Article 14 meetings hosted by the European Commission and attends meetings of the Concerted Action network which shares best practice on implementation of the directive.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* enforcement notices were served and *(b)* prosecutions were brought as a result of non-compliance with the energy efficiency requirements in Part L of the Building Regulations in each year between 2002 and 2007. [153856]

Mr. Iain Wright: Enforcement of compliance with the Building Regulations is undertaken by local authorities. There is no central register of enforcement notices served or prosecutions brought. In the main, local authorities aim to resolve issues that arise through inspection of and advice to those undertaking work. Enforcement notices and prosecution are generally only used as a last resort.

Housing: Floods

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the submissions to the consultation on the most recent revision to PPS25. [153784]

Mr. Iain Wright: A report summarising the responses to the Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk consultation has been placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Communities and Local Government website. This is located at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/154211.

Responses can be viewed on request at the Eland House offices of Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes built in the last 10 years suffered flood damage in June and July 2007; [153843]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of the number of homes that were flooded in England in June and July 2007. [153845]

John Healey: Local authorities have provided their own figures on the number of households affected by flooding (defined as those residential properties where the habitable accommodation has been affected, and excluding those, where—for example—only garage and/or outbuildings were affected). On that basis, information held as of 25 September 2007 estimates that 47,933 households were flooded in June and July. The figures may include some households which flooded on both occasions. We do not hold data which allows us to identify whether individual houses were damaged by the flooding.

The information requested on how many homes built in the last 10 years suffered flood damage in June and July 2007 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the source is of the dataset Areas of Land at Risk of Flooding held on her Department's MapsOnTap database. [153915]

Mr. Iain Wright: The source of the data set, Areas of Land at Risk of Flooding, held on the 'Maps on Tap' database is the Environment Agency.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new domestic dwellings were built in areas of flood risk in each Government office region in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [156518]

Mr. Iain Wright: On a provisional estimate, 9 per cent. of all new dwellings in England in 2005 were built in flood risk areas. A more robust estimate for 2004 shows that 10 per cent. of all new dwellings in England were built in flood risk areas during that year. The following table gives a breakdown by Government office region of the percentage of new dwellings built in flood risk areas for the last 10 years.

Flood risk is a major factor in the location of new development. Flood risk areas account for about 10 per cent. of land in England, including parts of major cities, and around 10 per cent. of the population already live in flood risk areas. The Government's aim is to avoid inappropriate development in areas of high flood risk. The Government published planning policy statement (PPS25) in December 2006 to strengthen and clarify earlier policy on this issue.

PPS25 ensures that flood risk must be taken into account at all stages of the planning process. Development that would not be safe in the higher flood risk areas should be directed to areas of lower risk wherever this is practicable. In particular, more vulnerable development, such as housing, should not be permitted in high risk areas unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the need for the development outweighs the risk, and it will be safe, without increasing flood risk.

The definition of high flood risk areas and floodplain used by Communities and Local Government is the high risk zone mapped by the Environment Agency as being at a probability of flooding, excluding the presence of flood defences, of at least a one in 100 each year for river flooding and at least a one in 200 for coastal flooding. This is the basis for the definition of 'high risk areas' in PPS25.

Percentage of all new dwellings built in flood risk areas, by region, 1996 to 2005

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[1]
North East	6	5	2	3	1	2	2	3	2	2
North West	5	5	7	5	6	9	6	8	5	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	11	12	7	10	13	12	11	15	10	13
East Midlands	10	12	6	7	9	11	13	13	11	9

Percentage of all new dwellings built in flood risk areas, by region, 1996 to 2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005[1]
West Midlands	7	4	6	6	2	4	5	4	5	3
East of England	6	7	8	7	7	6	7	8	7	13
London	27	25	26	24	23	20	21	28	26	18
South East	6	8	9	10	9	10	8	10	7	7
South West	5	6	6	8	7	8	10	7	8	7
England	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	11	10	9

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. There is an inevitable time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded, therefore data are constantly being updated.
2. The data in the table are based on records received from Ordnance Survey up to March 2007.

Source:

Land Use Change Statistics

Housing: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in each London borough in each of the last five years. [154813]

Mr. Iain Wright: The figures requested are tabulated as follows.

New build completions by London boroughs 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
London	15,670	19,394	24,063	18,809	21,997
Barking and Dagenham	222	263	576	467	684
Barnet	712	902	1,326	597	377
Bexley	271	773	221	140	212
Brent	850	536	390	251	632
Bromley	203	269	874	497	484
Camden	77	162	499	400	378
City of London	67	213	45	41	2
Croydon	616	289	391	400	845
Ealing	236	730	605	702	1,325
Enfield	606	379	524	703	998
Greenwich	1,410	878	1,576	1,073	1,134
Hackney	333	205	525	353	420
Hammersmith and Fulham	78	135	281	131	202
Haringey	172	78	569	79	35
Harrow	547	291	238	275	320
Havering	263	271	457	486	650
Hillingdon	391	426	473	306	194
Hounslow	459	998	777	1,192	1,556
Islington	283	220	166	383	743
Kensington and Chelsea	269	602	120	75	139
Kingston upon Thames	207	405	425	188	172
Lambeth	392	224	552	659	942
Lewisham	483	447	188	164	457
Merton	306	115	502	948	646
Newham	402	981	553	796	471
Redbridge	510	419	650	963	513
Richmond upon Thames	269	361	316	249	159
Southwark	384	619	1,832	1,120	512
Sutton	372	272	670	400	455
Tower Hamlets	1,486	1,916	2,952	1,918	1,904
Waltham Forest	345	191	293	256	394
Wandsworth	625	483	1,260	338	722
Westminster	842	784	421	357	211

Source:

Returns to CLG from local authorities and the NHBC. Local authority figures presented are as reported. Regional totals include estimates for missing returns.

Housing: Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 745W, on Housing: Immigration, how many of the additional households projected by each of the sets of household projections referred to in that Answer were projected to be in *(a)* London and *(b)* each region of England. [154029]

Mr. Iain Wright: An estimate of the amount of projected household growth attributable to net migration is available at the England level only. This is because the estimate is derived from the Office for National Statistics variant population projections that are themselves available at the England level only.

Housing: Inspections

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median time is for (i) a home inspector and (ii) a domestic energy assessor to be fully accredited. [152383]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of trained and accredited *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy inspectors likely not to practise as such within (i) one and (ii) five years of qualifying. [154334]

Yvette Cooper: The number of home inspectors and domestic energy assessors will be sufficient to produce the energy performance certificates for home information packs required by the market.

Housing: Local Authorities

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority houses were *(a)* sold and *(b)* demolished in each London borough in each of the last five years. [154811]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of local authority homes sold and demolished in each London borough in each of the last five years are tabulated below. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Sales[1] and demolitions of local authority homes: London

LA name		*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	n/a	585	653	431	249
Barnet	Demolitions	0	0	n/a	0	0
	Sales	169	n/a	251	n/a	47
Bexley	Demolitions	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
	Sales	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
Brent	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	159	157	185	n/a	71
Bromley	Demolitions	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
	Sales	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
Camden	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	671	477	518	433	137
City of London	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	53	53	77	54	13
Croydon	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	259	242	324	182	42
Ealing	Demolitions	100	0	0	0	0
	Sales	309	n/a	339	176	51
Enfield	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	210	279	382	216	67
Greenwich	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	2
	Sales	470	561	701	409	127
Hackney	Demolitions	213	188	175	0	213
	Sales	n/a	728	656	709	202
Hammersmith and Fulham	Demolitions	102	0	159	24	19
	Sales	212	n/a	228	215	116
Haringey	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	n/a	363	500	473	226
Harrow	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	88	69	81	54	32
Havering	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	219	216	258	124	89

Sales[1] and demolitions of local authority homes: London

LA name		*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Hillingdon	Demolitions	28	0	0	0	2
	Sales	163	163	177	105	76
Hounslow	Demolitions	253	0	0	0	0
	Sales	n/a	n/a	372	166	43
Islington	Demolitions	54	0	0	0	0
	Sales	840	677	743	n/a	n/a
Kensington and Chelsea	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	42	43	66	49	13
Kingston upon Thames	Demolitions	0	n/a	0	0	0
	Sales	31	70	64	36	14
Lambeth	Demolitions	0	0	0	20	20
	Sales	n/a	n/a	n/a	959	n/a
Lewisham	Demolitions	339	254	84	243	161
	Sales	n/a	1,000	n/a	n/a	343
Merton	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	164	195	192	122	45
Newham	Demolitions	0	0	182	85	0
	Sales	611	739	888	648	211
Redbridge	Demolitions	0	0	n/a	0	0
	Sales	100	119	125	115	71
Richmond upon Thames	Demolitions	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
	Sales	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT	LSVT
Southwark	Demolitions	519	360	97	0	278
	Sales	943	990	1,445	1,754	769
Sutton	Demolitions	147	202	173	129	60
	Sales	130	150	145	59	15
Tower Hamlets	Demolitions	42	44	195	0	45
	Sales	1,009	1,213	815	866	400
Waltham Forest	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	189	n/a	288	211	53
Wandsworth	Demolitions	0	0	0	0	0
	Sales	n/a	253	312	367	137
Westminster	Demolitions	12	0	0	0	0
	Sales	204	254	298	149	40

n/a = data not available
LSVT = Large scale voluntary transfer (no local authority housing in district)
[1] Includes right to buy sales, sales to sitting tenants and other sales to owner occupiers. *Source:*
Local authority returns (P1B, BPSA)

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared equity homes are on the National Register of Social Housing in England. [153711]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Register of Social Housing recorded 4,221 dwellings in shared ownership in England in July 2007. This is 1.3 per cent. of the 318,976 dwellings for which the category of provision had been provided by local authorities and housing associations.

In July 2007 the National Register of Social Housing contained records of 1.19 million dwellings out of a total of 4 million. Participation by landlords is at present discretionary. Landlords have only provided the category of provision information for 318,976 dwellings. Without this we are not able to identify those in shared ownership. We are working with local authorities, and, through the Housing Corporation, with housing associations to speed up the capture of data and complete the information on category of provision and other attributes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister approved the establishment of the National Register of Social Housing; and on what date approval was given. [153905]

Mr. Iain Wright: My right hon. Friend the Member for Streatham, (Keith Hill) then Minister of Housing and Local Government, approved the establishment of the National Register of Social Housing on 13 September 2004.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the *(a)* Social Homebuy, *(b)* Open Markets Homebuy and *(c)* New Build Homebuy schemes apply to social tenants in Wales. [153906]

Yvette Cooper: The Social, Open Market and New Build HomeBuy schemes operate in England to help social tenants, key workers and other priority first time buyers into home ownership.

Housing in Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has a target for the number of Social HomeBuy sales between 2005 and 2010. [153911]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have not set a specific target for sales under the Social HomeBuy pilot scheme which runs until March 2008. Final numbers will be dependent on participation by local authorities and housing associations offering the scheme and the take up from tenants. The scheme is one of a range of options which aims to help social tenants, key workers and other first time buyers into home ownership.

As announced in the Housing Green Paper: 'Homes for the future: more affordable', more sustainable on 23 July, we want to see the opportunity of Social HomeBuy offered more widely by landlords and we will announce further proposals later this year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the business case for the National Register of Social Housing. [153913]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest version of the business case for the National Register of Social Housing has been placed in the Library of the House, as requested.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private developments have met the 50 per cent. affordable housing target since its inception, broken down by London borough. [154055]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally. The Mayor of London's 50 per cent. affordable housing target is a strategic target for London as a whole, and not a requirement for each individual planning application. Planning applications for housing development in London are primarily the responsibility of the boroughs, who consult the Mayor of London on a limited number of applications that raise issues of strategic importance.

Housing: Parking

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the recommendations in Planning Policy Statement 3 on the minimum and maximum amount of car parking in new residential developments. [154074]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 31 July 2007, *Official Report*, column1674W.

Housing: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* housing association and *(b)* private sector housing within Peterborough constituency was judged to be unfit in each year since 1997. [154068]

Mr. Iain Wright: The percentage of *(a)* housing association and *(b)* private sector housing, within Peterborough, judged to be unfit in each year since 1997 is given in the following table. The data are as reported by the local authority.

Percentage of unfit dwellings within (a) housing association and (b) private sector housing, as reported by local authorities

		Percentage
	(a) HA	*(b) Private sector*
1997	0.3	20.8
1998	0.6	20.7
1999	0.0	20.6
2000	0.0	19.9
2001	0.0	6.0
2002	0.0	5.6
2003	0.0	6.4

Percentage of unfit dwellings within (a) housing association and (b) private sector housing, as reported by local authorities

	(a) HA	Percentage (b) Private sector
2004	0.3	6.4
2005	0.6	6.4
2006	0.4	6.4

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA).

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses were built by *(a)* private sector companies, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* the local authority within the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 1997. [154069]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is available only by the eventual tenure of the dwelling rather than by the group that built the dwellings.

The following table tabulates the number of new build completions by tenure in Peterborough in each year since 1997-98 by tenure.

New Build Completions by Tenure, Peterborough 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Private Enterprise	Registered Social Landlords	Local Authority	Total
1997-98	395	0	0	395
1998-99	417	68	0	371
1999-2000	554	8	0	370
2000-01	341	0	0	214
2001-02	334	66	0	311
2002-03	509	2	0	511
2003-04	619	30	0	649
2004-05	747	77	0	824
2005-06	835	49	0	884
2006-07	1,031	180	0	1,211

Source:
Returns to CLG from local authorities and the NHBC.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Valuation Office Agency's estimate is of the average increase in the capital value of a domestic dwelling from *(a)* a small wind turbine and *(b)* solar panels. [153916]

Mr. Dhanda: No such estimate has been made.

Housing: Sales

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what number and proportion of homes sold each year are *(a)* one or two, *(b)* three and (c) four or more bedroomed properties. [156514]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government do not collect the data in the format requested. However for England we have made the following estimates based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey and HM Land Registry.

Estimated number and proportion of homes sold in 2006 by number of bedrooms

Number of bedrooms	Properties sold	Proportion of all sales (percentage)
One or two	458,991	37.5
Three	535,599	43.8
Four or more	228,370	18.7
Total	1,222,960	100.0

Housing: Sewers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planning procedure is relating to *(a)* drainage and *(b)* sewerage for new housing developments in (i) England and (ii) Scotland; and if she will make a statement. [154115]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 31 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1665W.

Planning procedures in Scotland are a matter for the Scottish Executive.

Housing: Unique Property Reference Number

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings in England have a unique property reference number. [156519]

Mr. Iain Wright: The unique property reference number (UPRN) is maintained by the Improvement and Development Agency in the National Land and Property Gazetteer. It is not for Communities and Local Government to comment on the content of the National Land and Property Gazetteer. Further information on the National Land and Property Gazetteer can be found on the internet at www.nlpg.org.uk

Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on waiting lists for homes in Peterborough in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [154692]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in Peterborough in each year since 1997, as at 1 April each year, is tabled as follows and also published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. For future reference purposes, the link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)[3]

Peterborough UA	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	2,634	2,921	3,129	3,347	3,072	2,648	2,113	4,853	6,044	6,287

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix Return (HSSA)

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Land Use

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to prevent land banking by housing developers. [154385]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government's Green Paper "Homes for the future: more affordable more sustainable" (July 2007) describes the steps that we have already taken through the development control process to encourage developers to utilise land for building homes more swiftly. We have said that we will consider whether further measures are needed. We have also proposed to explore further how to ensure consistent and comprehensive declaration of developers' total residential land holdings within their accounts.

The Callcutt Review of House Building Delivery, which we expect to receive later this year, will examine the acquisition, holding and disposal of land for house building, and the influence of land supply on levels of house building production. In addition, the Office of Fair Trading has announced a market study into house building in the UK. The study, expected to report in summer 2008, will consider whether land which is suitable for new homes is being brought forward for development. We will consider land banking further in the context of these wider reviews.

Land Use: Public Sector

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Department has lead responsibility for maintaining the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land. [153912]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Register of Surplus Public Sector Land was set up in 2003. It is managed by English Partnerships on behalf of Communities and Local Government and in collaboration with other Government Departments, their sponsored bodies and other public sector organisations.

The register provides a single reference point for all participating public sector organisations on the nationally available supply of surplus land. It helps to ensure that wider Government objectives, including housing needs and regional economic and housing strategies, are factored into land disposal decisions. The register identifies land held by central Government and its agencies that is surplus to operational requirements, and allows a 40 day period for public bodies to express an interest in this land before it is placed on the market.

Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 during the course of 2007. [154075]

John Healey: We have asked the Standards Board for England to monitor the operation of the revised code of conduct for members following its implementation in April 2007, and to make recommendations, as it sees fit, about any further revision with effect from April 2008.

Local Authorities: Finance

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities had their bid for disabled facilities grant capital allocation for 2007-08 not met in full; what criteria are applied to decide the proportion of bid met; and if she will make a statement. [153773]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2007-08 216 local authorities (LAs) in England did not have their bid for Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding in full. Despite substantially increasing the Government funding available for the national DFG programme, from £57 million in 1997 to £126 million in 2007-08, there is still considerable demand for the grant.

The national budget is divided up between the regions using a formula which takes into account data from the English House Condition Survey on the number of disabled people in each region living in unsuitable housing and a regional building cost index.

Government offices (GOs) are responsible for overseeing the allocation of DFG resources. In order to assist the GOs in this process the department supplied them with the LA bid for DFG funds and a local needs indicator, which is the number of individuals in each LA in receipt of either disability living allowance or attendance allowance. The GOs take these factors into

account and balance them with any local data or information which they think is relevant in order to allocate DFG resources.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will publish the Government's response to the consultation on the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme: the Government's proposals to improve programme delivery. [153774]

Mr. Iain Wright: The summary of responses to the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme consultation was published on the Department's website on 13 August 2007, please see following weblink:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/facilitiesprogrammegovernmentspr.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requests she has received from *(a)* Bassetlaw District Council, *(b)* Nottinghamshire County Council and *(c)* Manton Neighbourhood Renewal Pathfinder for inclusion in the participatory budgeting pilot. [153853]

John Healey: During 2006, members of the Manton Community Alliance, the delivery body for the Manton Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder, attended two workshops on participatory budgeting (PB) run by the Participatory Budgeting Unit (PB Unit), run by Church Action on Poverty, and part funded by the Department.

Early in 2007, following these seminars and further discussions, the Manton Community Alliance invited the PB Unit to make a presentation to their board on developing a PB pilot in Manton. In May 2007, the Manton Community Alliance Board voted to develop a PB project and engaged with the PB Unit to assist in this process.

Local Authorities: Population Studies

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from which local authorities her Department has received representations on the Government's estimation of their populations; and if she will make a statement. [156395]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government receive representations from local authorities about the data used in the local government finance settlements, including the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) population estimates and population projections.

In this context, Communities and Local Government has received specific representations regarding the ONS population data from the following 45 authorities, including two police authorities and two fire and rescue authorities:

Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Bristol, Calderdale, Corby, Cumbria, Derby, Durham (CC), Haling, East Lindsey, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Enfield, Gateshead, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Lambeth, Leeds, Leicester, Lewisham, Luton, Merton, Milton Keynes, Newham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumbria Police, Norwich, Oldham, Pendle, Plymouth, Redbridge, Rushmoor, Sheffield, Slough, South Cambridgeshire, South Yorkshire Fire, South Yorkshire police, Southwark, Sunderland, Telford and The Wrekin, Tyne and Wear Fire, Westminster.

Questions on the accuracy and calculation of the population statistics are a matter for the ONS.

Local Government Finance Funding Changes Independent Inquiry

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether representatives of her Department made any written submission or representation to the Lyons Inquiry on local government. [155678]

John Healey: No formal written submissions or representations were made to the Lyons Inquiry on local government on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister or Communities and Local Government.

Local Government: Equal Pay

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has *(a)* to offer financial support to local government for equal pay between men and women and *(b)* to promote equal pay in local government; and if she will make a statement. [154408]

John Healey: Equal pay is not a new pressure on local government and we expect local authorities to manage it proactively and affordably. We have given local authorities greater flexibility in dealing with this pressure by amending the capital finance regulations, and have also revised the process of equal pay capitalisation. On 28 September I announced the allocation of £500 million equal pay capitalisation directions to 46 authorities, giving them the financial flexibility to make one-off back-payments to thousands of employees—mostly women.

Local authorities, as employers, are responsible for meeting their statutory requirements, including the Gender Equality Duty and their obligations under the Equal Pay Act.

Ordnance Survey Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers are employed by the Ordnance Survey Agency. [154178]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey employs two press officers.

Planning Inspectorate: Appeals

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals the Planning Inspectorate has ruled on in the last 24 months related to development on floodplains. [156515]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Planning: Greenbelt

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Town and Country Planning (Residential Development on Greenfield Land) (England) Direction 2000 was cancelled. [153909]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Town and Country Planning (Residential Development on Greenfield Land) (England) Direction 2000 was introduced as a transitional measure on the introduction of Planning Policy Guidance Note 3: 'Housing' in March 2000.

Planning Policy Statement 3: 'Housing' (PPS3) published in November 2006 introduced a new and less restrictive approach to the supply of land for housing, in order to help us achieve the step change in delivery we need to provide an increase in the supply of new homes. Local authorities are required to have a rolling five-year supply of land for housing, giving priority to the release of brownfield land. The national target is that 60 per cent. of housing development should be on brownfield land.

PPS 3 gives local authorities the responsibility for deciding the most suitable location for housing, taking account of their local circumstances and the availability of deliverable brownfield sites. It is no longer appropriate therefore to require them to refer larger greenfield sites to the Secretary of State as the Greenfield Land Direction did, and to keep this requirement in place would mean that it takes longer to make decisions on planning applications which could delay the delivery of necessary new housing on suitable sites.

Planning: Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on printing hard copies of *(a)* the 2007 Housing Green Paper, *(b)* the 2007 Planning White Paper and *(c)* the 2007 Sub-National Review document; and how many copies were printed of each. [153814]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is as follows:

2007 Housing Green Paper

In line with the requirements on the supply of command papers we printed 600 copies for The Stationery Office (TSO) plus 4,550 additional copies at a cost of £11,712.

2007 Planning White Paper

In line with the requirements on the supply of command papers we printed 650 copies for The Stationery Office (TSO) plus 5,950 additional copies at a cost of £17,779.

2007 Sub-National Review document

This was published by HM Treasury and no printing costs were incurred by Communities and Local Government.

Power Stations: Floods

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provisions of the new PPS25 on development on flood plains apply to the development of power generation infrastructure, including electricity sub-stations. [156517]

Mr. Iain Wright: Yes. Power generation infrastructure, including electricity sub-stations is included in PPS25, table D2 Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification. They are defined as 'essential infrastructure' as it is acknowledged that power stations and grid and primary substations may need to be located in flood risk areas. This is because power stations often need a ready supply of water and sub-stations need to be located near to the communities they supply. The PPS25 sequential test will ensure that they are located in low risk areas where possible, but where there are no alternative lower risk locations for this type of development then the exception test will ensure that they are safe.

Recent flood events during the summer have highlighted the importance of essential infrastructure being protected during flood events and PPS25 aims to ensure that any new electricity infrastructure that is essential in areas at risk of flooding is designed and constructed to be operational during floods.

Public Sector Relocation Independent Review

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1679W, on the Public Sector Relocation Independent Review, whether her Department has destroyed any documents relating to the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government since the transfer of the documents from the inquiry to the responsibility of her Department. [154028]

John Healey: No.

QE2 Conference Centre: Information Officers

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers are employed by the QE2 Conference Centre. [154739]

Mr. Iain Wright: As at 1 April 2007 there were no press officers employed by the QE2 Conference Centre. The QE2 Conference Centre does employ a marketing officer.

Regional Assemblies: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how long the regional assemblies outside London will receive central Government grant. [153902]

Mr. Iain Wright: The review of sub-national economic development and regeneration, published on 17 July 2007, made clear reformed regional development agencies will in due course assume responsibility for a single integrated regional strategy. The timing of this is dependent on the necessary legislation.

In the meantime, regional assemblies will continue to receive central Government grant to enable them to carry out their responsibilities as regional planning bodies, to exercise regional housing board functions and to scrutinise RDAs' regional economic strategies.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the change in funding will be for regional development agencies when they are designated as regional planning bodies. [153903]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding for regional development agencies for the next three years will be determined through their forthcoming comprehensive spending review settlement. The level and timing of any additional funding in relation to additional planning functions will be dependent on the measures set out in the legislation necessary to enable the regional development agencies to assume these functions.

Regional Government

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of *(a)* sub-national and *(b)* sub-regional governance. [153801]

John Healey: The Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration was published on 17 July 2007. For the purpose of the Review, "sub-national" was taken to include regional, sub-regional and local levels. Sub-regional governance in this context refers to any arrangement involving more than one, but fewer than every, local authority in a single region (as defined in the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998, Schedule 1—Regions).

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will have the power *(a)* to veto and *(b)* to amend the new integrated regional spatial strategies of the regional development agencies. [153719]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of how the new integrated regional spatial strategies will be developed and agreed following a consultation exercise. A consultation paper to assist this will be published later this year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the timetable is for the publication of the new integrated regional strategies; and how the roll-out of the existing regional spatial strategies will be affected; [153799]

(2) what the timetable is for the transfer of responsibilities on regional planning from regional assemblies to regional development agencies; [153800]

(3) whether primary or secondary legislation will be required to designate the regional development agencies as regional planning bodies. [153904]

John Healey: The Government will consult on the Single Regional Strategy later this year, as indicated in the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration. This will require primary legislation to transfer regional planning responsibilities from the Regional Assembly to the Regional Development Agency; implementation is not expected before 2010.

The existing RSSs will not be affected by the timetable for the publication of the new Single Regional Strategies.

Rights of Way

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 752W, on rights of way, whether the Independent Planning Commission will be required to undertake consultation with *(a)* the public and *(b)* user groups to ascertain whether alternative rights of way are being provided or the current rights of way are not needed. [154348]

Mr. Iain Wright: Further to the answer given to the hon. Member on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 752W, the Infrastructure Planning Commission will only take decisions about closure and/or diversion of public rights of way, where this is requested in an application for the development of a nationally significant infrastructure project. Any applications made to Infrastructure Planning Commission will be judged in a public and transparent manner as set in chapter 5, paragraphs 5.21—5.38 of "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (cm 7120). This process contains public consultation at its heart, and all interested parties will be able to submit their evidence to the examination.

South East England Regional Assembly: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers are employed by the South East England Regional Assembly. [154157]

Mr. Iain Wright: The South East England Regional Assembly employs no dedicated press officers. Work on press releases and press inquiries is shared between three staffing its multidisciplinary communications team who manage public consultations, opinion research and community involvement in respect of the Assembly's strategic planning, housing and transport responsibilities across 74 local authority areas and a population of over eight million people. In addition, they manage the Assembly's publications and websites, IT support, internal communications and external communications including press inquiries and press releases. The work on press releases and press inquiries is equivalent to 1.3 full-time press officers.

Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling has met. [153815]

Yvette Cooper: The Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling met on the 25 July 2007.

Structure Plans

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what adopted structure plans are in force in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county; and what the date is (i) of their adoption and (ii) on which they cease to be part of the development plan under current legislation. [152640]

Yvette Cooper: Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all structure plans lapsed on the 27 September 2007, unless they were adopted in September 2004, in which case they will lapse three years from their date of adoption.

Regional planning bodies can make an application to save individual structure plan policies, to be saved after the lapse of the structure plan.

The Secretary of State decided which individual structure plan policies will be saved by the 27 September 2007

The current status of adopted structure plans by region are detailed as follows:

North East

County Durham Structure Plan adopted 1999, Northumberland Joint Structure Plan adopted in 1995 and Tees Valley Structure Plan adopted 2004 will all expire on 27 September 2007

Yorkshire and Humber

Humberside Structure Plan (adopted in 1987, alteration 1993). Superseded by Hull and East Riding Joint Structure Plan (as follows) for those two districts but will remain part of the statutory development plan for North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire until 27 September 2007.

North Yorkshire and York Joint Structure Plan adopted 1995—remains part of the development plan until 27 September 2007.

Hull and East Riding Joint Structure Plan adopted June 2005 and will remain part of the statutory development plan until June 2008.

North West

Lakes District/Cumbria Structure Plan adopted April 2005 will expire April 2008.

Cheshire Structure Plan adopted December 2005 will expire December 2008.

Joint Lancashire Structure Plan adopted in May 2005 will expire May 2008.

South West

Joint Replacement Structure Plan (Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council) Structure Plan adopted in 2002 and due to expire on 27 September 2007.

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structure Plan adopted in July 2000 and due to expire on 27 September 2007.

Cornwall Structure Plan adopted on September 2004, due to expire on 27 September 2007.

Devon Structure Plan (Devon City Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Dartmoor National Park) adopted on October 2004 and due to expire in October 2007

Gloucestershire Structure Plan adopted on November 1999 and due to expire on 27 September 2007.

Somerset and Exmoor National Park Structure Plan adopted in April 2000 and due to end on 27 September 2007.

Wiltshire Structure Plan 2001-11 adopted in 2001 and due to end on 27 September 2007.

Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan adopted in April 2006 and due to expire in April 2009.

South East

East Sussex/Brighton and Hove Structure Plan adopted 1999, Buckinghamshire Structure Plan and the Hampshire Structure Plan adopted 2000 will all expire on the 27 September 2007.

Kent/Medway Structure Plan adopted in July 2006 will expire July 2009.

Surrey Structure Plan adopted in December 2004 will expire December 2007.

Oxfordshire Structure Plan adopted in October 2005 will expire October 2008.

Berkshire Structure Plan adopted July 2005 will expire July 2008.

West Sussex Structure Plan adopted October 2004 will expire October 2007.

East Midlands

Northamptonshire Structure Plan adopted in March 2001, Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan adopted January 2001 and the Peak District National Park Structure Plan adopted in April 1994 will all expire on the 27 September 2007.

Nottinghamshire Joint Structure Plan adopted in February 2006 will expire February 2009.

Lincolnshire Structure Plan adopted in September 2006 will expire September 2009.

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan adopted March 2005 will expire March 2008.

West Midlands

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan adopted May 2001, Warwickshire Structure Plan adopted August 2001, Worcestershire Structure Plan adopted June 2001 and Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Structure Plan adopted November 2002 will all expire on the 27 September 2007.

East of England

Bedfordshire Structure Plan adopted March 1997, Cambridgeshire Structure Plan adopted December 1995, Cambridgeshire/Peterborough Structure Plan adopted October 2003, Essex/Southend Structure Plan adopted April 2001, Hertfordshire Structure Plan adopted April 1998, Norfolk Structure Plan adopted October 1999 and Suffolk Structure Plan adopted June 2001 will all expire on the 27 September 2007.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reach a decision on the savings of policies from those structure plans in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county which cease to have effect from September under current legislation; and if she will publish on the appropriate Government Regional Office website a list of policies to be saved in each case. [152747]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State made a direction on which policies in existing adopted structure plans will be extended on 27 September 2007.

These decisions were made public.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil penalties have been issued for failing to provide the Valuation Office Agency with information to value properties for business rates. [155681]

John Healey: Since 18 September 2003 when they were first introduced, 6,585 civil penalty notices have

been issued for failure to provide information requested for non-domestic rating purposes under Paragraph 5 of Schedule 9 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2003).

Valuation Office: Expenditure

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expenditure by the Valuation Office Agency was in relation to conducting a non-domestic rating assessment of the Big Brother house at Elstree Studios, Shenley Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. [155682]

John Healey: Individual costs relating to the review of a specific property for non-domestic rating are not recorded, nor could they be derived at reasonable cost.

Valuebill XML Schema

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuebill XML schema. [155703]

John Healey: The latest versions (v4.0) of the Valuebill XML schemas are publicly available on http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/schemalibrary_schema.asp?schemaid:=256

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the strength and capabilities of the *(a)* Afghan National Army, *(b)* Afghan National Police and *(c)* Afghan Auxiliary Police Force. [154243]

Des Browne: The Afghan National Army has approximately 40,000 trained and equipped soldiers and is capable of joint combat operations alongside the international forces deployed in Afghanistan. The Afghan National Police (ANP) is currently 76,000 strong. It is augmented by the 6,000-strong Afghan National Auxiliary Police. Overall, the level of capability is less advanced in the Afghan police services than in the Army.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures will be taken to ensure that forward operating bases in Afghanistan are kept supplied with necessary provisions during winter; and if he will make a statement. [154224]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Throughout the winter, forward operating bases (includes patrol bases) in Afghanistan will continue to be supplied in the regular and routine manner in which they have been during other months. Additional measures will be taken to ensure British forces are prepared for the winter conditions. These measures will include issuing a winter clothing supplement, measures to protect vehicles and equipment, infrastructure checks, and reviews of stock holdings.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the primary method of transport is for supplies into the Afghan theatre. [154227]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no primary method of transporting supplies into the Afghanistan theatre of operation. The UK employs a range of routes via land and air to move supplies into the country.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of theft have been reported on British military supplies during transit from the port of debarkation in Pakistan to the final destination in Afghanistan since 2001. [154228]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since October 2006 eight reports of theft have been confirmed. A number of other losses are being investigated, but the exact detail and circumstances of those losses have yet to be confirmed. Information on the number of reported thefts before October 2006 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attacks have been made on UK forces in Afghanistan in each month since October 2006. [154244]

Des Browne: The table records the number of attacks instigated by enemy forces on UK forces in Regional Command (South) in Afghanistan. Attack levels will vary according to seasonal factors, planned enemy activity and the operational tempo and movements of UK forces.

	Number
2006	
October	156
November	126
December	118
2007	
January	106
February	121
March	181
April	52
May	103
June	127
July	126
August	143

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the new aircraft carriers will be based. [154020]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 871, in which I confirmed that the new aircraft carriers are to be base-ported in Portsmouth.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that any cooperation with France in order to reduce costs will not result in a delay for the introduction of the new aircraft carriers. [154021]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have always made it clear that for cooperation with France to work it must deliver cost savings and must do so without delaying the UK or French carrier programmes.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many type 45 destroyers will be procured in order to provide escort security to the UK's new aircraft carriers. [154048]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Several types of vessels will provide escort and security for the aircraft carriers, and the numbers employed will vary according to the threat faced. There are many variables involved in determining the number of ships required to defend a carrier or amphibious task group. These include the level of the threat, the level of multinational involvement and the type and scale of the operation. We currently have a contract for six type 45 destroyers.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expected cost is of each of the future aircraft carriers. [154395]

Des Browne: The project to provide two future aircraft carriers is currently expected to cost £3.9 billion. There is agreement and a scheme of incentives, however, to work with industry to reduce this before a final price is settled by 2010.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the former target in-service dates of 2012 and 2015 have been replaced by 2014 and 2016 respectively for each of the future aircraft carriers. [154396]

Des Browne: In-service dates are not set until Main Gate, when the project is mature enough for us to take a view on the appropriate date. That point was reached in July and the dates (2014 and 2016) have been set.

Armed Forces: Culture

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resources his Department provides for the cultural education of personnel when deployed overseas. [154231]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Cultural awareness training is an integral part of pre-deployment training for all personnel undertaking overseas operations. In mature theatres cultural awareness training is continued through education centres. Additionally, literature is available via a number of internal websites, and units are provided with material in CD and DVD formats to widen accessibility.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel are deployed on operations, broken down by location. [154238]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of personnel deployed on operations by operation and location at 9 September 2007.

Number of personnel deployed by operation and location[1]

Operation	*Number*
Total	14,200
Of which:	
Telic	6,120
Of which:	
Iraq	5,030
Qatar	460
At Sea	350
Oman	200
Bahrain	60
Kuwait	20
Herrick	7,550
Of which:	
Afghanistan	7,540
Oculus	190
Of which:	
Kosovo	160
Bosnia	20
UN	320
Of which:	
Cyprus	290

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately.
Note:
Countries with fewer than 10 personnel are not shown.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what UK military units have been on operations outside the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [154258]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 95W, to the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk (Mr. Fraser). Further detail and breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Single Living Accommodation units were upgraded to Standard One in each financial year since 1997. [153389]

Des Browne: The number of Single Living Accommodation bed spaces that have been upgraded to our highest standard 'Grade One for Condition' in each financial year since 2001 is:

	Number
2002-03	988
2003-04	3,347
2004-06	5,816
2005-06	5,539
2006-07	5,822

Records prior to 1 October 2001 are not held in a comparable format.

Armed Forces: Personnel Management

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what representations he has received on the Joint Personnel Administration system; [154545]

(2) how many complaints he received from military personnel about the Joint Personnel Administration system in each month since December 2006. [154547]

Derek Twigg: Since December 2006, 1,032 complaints had been received from armed forces personnel via the centralised JPA complaints process about mispayments and other apparent problems with pay, or the handling of queries. The following table shows the breakdown of these by month:

	Number of complaints
December 2006	61
January 2007	98
February 2007	105
March 2007	94
April 2007	78
May 2007	126
June 2007	204
July 2007	150
August 2007	116

Armed Forces: Suicide

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the incidence of suicide by *(a)* serving members of the armed forces, *(b)* serving members of the armed forces who have served in a theatre of conflict and *(c)* former members of the armed forces was in each year for which figures are available. [154041]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has centrally compiled and verified records of coroner-confirmed suicides and open verdict deaths that have occurred among UK regular Service personnel while in service during the period 1984 to 2006. The information is summarised in the following table .

Information is also available on regular service personnel who were deployed to the conflicts in the Gulf (September 1990 to June 1991), Iraq (January 2003 to December 2006) and Afghanistan (October 2005 to December 2006), and have since died in service of coroner-confirmed suicide or open verdict deaths.

Information on suicides and open verdict deaths that may have occurred to service personnel after discharge from the services is not currently available.

Suicides and open verdict deaths[1], UK regular armed forces, 1984 to 2006

	All regular personnel	*Regular personnel who had served on operations overseas [2, 3]*
Total	696	77
1984	27	—
1985	30	—
1986	44	—
1987	27	—
1988	41	—
1989	36	—
1990	50	—
1991	48	10
1992	37	9
1993	43	6
1994	35	3
1995	43	6
1996	31	6
1997	26	3
1998	19	4
1999	27	3
2000	36	3
2001	15	1
2002	14	3
2003	25	7
2004	19	7
2005	19	4
2006	4	2

[1] The figures provided do not include any violent or unnatural deaths that have not yet been fully investigated by a coroner (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or the Procurator Fiscal (Scotland).
[2] Regular personnel who had served on operations overseas may have died while overseas or at any time after their return.
[3] Regular personnel who had served on operations overseas in the Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan

Armed Forces: Young People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the minimum age of entry into the UK armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [154709]

Derek Twigg: The minimum age of entry into the UK armed forces is 16 years. The services provide challenging and constructive training and employment to many young people and enable them to learn valuable transferable skills. In financial year 2006-07, 30 per cent. of all new recruits were under 18 years of age.

No young person under the age of 18 years may join the armed forces unless the application is accompanied by the formal written consent of his or her parents or guardian. Throughout the recruit selection process, the staffs at the Armed Forces Careers Offices (AFCO) provide comprehensive written and verbal guidance to all potential recruits, in particular those under 18 years of age and their parents or guardians, regarding their terms and conditions of service, the commitments that they would be undertaking, and their rights to discharge.

Defence policy is that service personnel under the age of 18 are not to be deployed on any operations outside of the UK that would result in them becoming engaged in, or exposed to, hostilities. In addition, in line with UN policy service personnel under 18 are not to be deployed on UN peacekeeping operations.

Army Board: Official Cars

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether wives and partners of non-ministerial members of the Army Board are allowed to use official cars. [154043]

Derek Twigg: In accordance with established rules covering both service and civilian staff, non ministerial members of the Army Board using official cars for official purposes may be accompanied by their spouses,

where appropriate. A spouse may also use official transport free of charge when travelling to represent their partner at official ceremonial and formal functions or where special transport is required for medical appointments.

Army Board: Uniforms

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of providing dress uniforms for all military members of the Army Board in the latest period for which figures are available. [154046]

Derek Twigg: For the purpose of this question, dress uniform has been taken to mean the blue frock coat, great coat and trousers (overalls), worn by certain personnel, including members of the Army Board, as well as Number 1 Dress.

The blue frock coat, great coat and trousers (overalls), are pool items and not the personal property of the General Officer. They are returned on cessation of the entitlement to wear them. The total cost of purchasing one set of these items is approximately £1,900.

The purchase of Number 1 Dress is an individual responsibility for which an allowance of up to £463 is paid to entitled officers, provided that no such allowance has been paid in the previous 12 years. Additionally, there are grants available to officers on promotion to cover the cost of new rank insignia, which is also purchased by individual officers. At the higher echelons, these grants are as follows:

	£
Major General	213.00
Lieutenant General	11.00
General	11.00
Field Marshal	110.00

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow into and *(b)* outflow from the infantry was in each of the last 12 months. [154235]

Derek Twigg: Officers are only allocated a regiment on completion of their commissioning course at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), hence officer intake figures have not been provided.

The following table shows the Regular Army soldier untrained intake figures for the infantry during the 12 months prior to March 2007.

Inflow

Flow during	*Total inflow*
2006	
March	220
April	280
May	310
June	180
July	290
August	540
September	680
October	320
November	300
December	10
2007	
January	650
February	260
Total	4,030

Notes:
1. The inflow figures are for UK Regular soldiers only. They exclude full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
2. The data are based on the number of soldiers joining the untrained strength of the infantry during the period 1 March 2006 and 28 February 2007. The figures also include untrained soldiers returning from being long-term illegally absent.
3. UK Regular forces includes nursing services and excludes full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Homes Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
4. All data have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
5. Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new joint personnel administration (JPA) system, there is no information after March 2007 currently available.

The following table shows the outflow to civil life from the infantry of trained and untrained Regular Army officers and other ranks during the 12 months prior to March 2007.

Outflow

Flow during	*Total outflow*
2006	
March	360
April	480
May	380
June	490
July	360
August	370
September	400
October	440
November	420
December	300
2007	
January	450
February	470
Total	4,930

Notes:
1. Figures show all outflow from UK Regular Army forces to civil life including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment from the infantry. The figures exclude outflow of illegal absentees i.e. those personnel removed from the reported strength of the Army having been deemed long-term illegally absent.
2. UK Regular forces includes nursing services and excludes full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Homes Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
3. All data have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
4. Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new joint personnel administration (JPA) system, there is no information after March 2007 currently available.

Army: Official Hospitality

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions in the last 12 months servicemen have been used to serve at functions for Guards Officers. [154044]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Aviation Repair Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by the Defence Aviation Repair Agency. [154727]

Derek Twigg: One.

Defence Communications Services Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by the Defence Communications Services Agency. [154479]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Communication Services Agency (DCSA) ceased to exist on 6 April 2007, when it was absorbed into the Defence Equipment and Support organisation. As at April 2007, Directorate General Information Systems and Services, the part of Defence Equipment and Support which carries out the functions of the former DCSA, employed one full time press officer. This individual also performs general public relations and community liaison duties.

Defence Estates: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by Defence Estates. [154562]

Derek Twigg: As at 1 April 2007, one press officer was employed by Defence Estates.

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory: Information Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by the *(a)* Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and *(b)* UK Hydrographic Office. [154682]

Derek Twigg: Dstl employs two people in press officer roles. The Hydrographic Office has two people who carry out some press officer duties as part of their wider communications roles.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been repealed. [154207]

Derek Twigg: The MOD has been responsible for the introduction of four Acts since 1997 of which all remain in force.

Departments: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 879W, on Departments: non-departmental public bodies, why the Fleet Air Arm Museum is classified as a public corporation. [154176]

Derek Twigg: The decision to classify the Fleet Air Arm Museum as a public corporation is a matter for the independent Office for National Statistics. However I understand that it was based on the fact that more than 50 per cent. of the museum's operating costs are met by market income.

Departments: Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his official engagements were in the week of 16th to 21st July. [154322]

Des Browne: From 16 to 19 July I was in London where I had various meetings, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and the Scotland Office. On Monday 16 July I also met with the British High Commissioner to Australia, answered oral questions on Defence issues in the House and attended a BBC Proms performance in support of Sailor, Soldier, Airman Family Association. On Tuesday, I attended Cabinet and appeared before the Scottish Affairs Committee for an oral evidence session on the Scotland Office Annual Report. That afternoon I also met representatives of Oracle Residential Ltd. to discuss defence accommodation issues. On Wednesday I met with the British High Commissioner to Pakistan. On Friday 20 and Saturday 21 July I was in my constituency in Scotland.

Duke of York's Royal Military School

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons funding for the Duke of York's Royal Military School's upgrade programme for boarding accommodations has been withdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [154245]

Derek Twigg: Approximately four years ago funding was allocated to The Duke of York Royal Military school to build sixth form accommodation. Regrettably, plans were not finalised within the specified time frame and the money was reallocated to another project. However, The Duke of York Royal Military school is currently preparing a main gate business case to upgrade boarding accommodation at the school. If successful this would be for the financial year 2008-09.

EU Battle Groups

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the certification process is for UK military units participating in the EU battle groups; and who certifies them. [154259]

Des Browne: Before being part of any EU Battle Group package, nations are required to certify that their contribution meets the defined standards and

criteria as set out in the EU Battle Group concept. As such, UK military units participating in an EU Battle Group are nationally certified following a number of Battle Group level exercises to assess and validate their competencies and readiness.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what UK *(a)* brigade, *(b)* battalions and *(c)* companies formed the core of the EU battle group in the first half of 2005. [154223]

Des Browne: The UK commitment to provide a European Union battle group on standby from January to June 2005 was covered by the Joint Rapid Reaction Force. Once the characteristics of any appropriate EU operation were known, the most appropriate units would have been selected from those forming the Joint Rapid Reaction Force at the time. This included 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles as the Spearhead Land Element (replaced by 1st Battalion the Royal Green Jackets in April 2005, now 2nd Battalion The Rifles), and 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment who provided the airborne taskforce capability throughout.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when UK military units participating in EU battle groups have to be certified for the 2008 EU battle group. [154260]

Des Browne: Member states contributing to the EU battle group are required to certify one month in advance of the standby period that their battle group package meets the battle group standards and criteria. Any UK military units expected to participate in the UK commitment to provide an EU battle group on standby from July to December 2008 should therefore be certified by 1 June 2008.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 171-2W, on Iraq: armed forces, what changes were made to his Department's agreed plans as a result of the events described. [154217]

Des Browne: Working with the Iraqis, coalition planning evolved over time and was sufficiently flexible to respond to changing circumstances and conditions on the ground.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the capabilities of the Iraqi *(a)* army, *(b)* navy, *(c)* air force and *(d)* police in Multi-National Division South East. [154241]

Des Browne: The capabilities of all branches of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in Multi-National Division (South-East) (MND(SE)), including the army, navy, air force and police, continue to develop. In the three provinces already handed over to the Iraqi authorities, they have proved themselves able to maintain security. In Basra, the Iraqi Army have successfully taken on responsibility for a number of former coalition bases in and around Basra city. The Government of Iraq have recently decided to increase ISF resources and manpower in MND(SE) by two Iraqi National Police Battalions and an additional Iraqi Army division.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the capabilities of units in the 10th Division of the Iraqi Army to carry out autonomous operations. [154242]

Des Browne: 10 Division and its subordinate units continue to make good progress in strengthening their ability to operate autonomously, as demonstrated by recent operations, including the successful handover of UK bases in Basra city in September. The constituent brigades of 10 Division now operate autonomously in three of the four provinces in MND(SE): Dhi Qar, Al Muthanna and Maysan. However, there remains a requirement for advice and support from coalition forces to enhance current capabilities.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1285W, on Iraq: peace keeping operations, what assessment he made of advice provided by the former Attorney General on the interpretation of the definitions referred to in the answer in the context of the activities of UK armed forces in Iraq. [154079]

Des Browne: Legal advice given to Government (whether by the Law Officers or any other lawyer) is confidential and covered by legal professional privilege. In accordance with the long-standing convention, set out in the Ministerial Code and adhered to by successive governments, neither the fact that the Law Officers have (or have not) advised, nor the content of any advice given, is disclosed outside Government.

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the number of UK troops based in Iraq fell below 44,000. [154645]

Des Browne: The number of UK military personnel in the Operation Telic area of operations fell below 44,000 in April 2003.

Military Aid: Floods

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on the use of the armed forces to help tackle instances of flooding in England. [154687]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Over the last three years, the Ministry of Defence has received the following representations for military assistance from the civil authorities to help tackle instances of flooding in England:

July 2007: Gloucestershire and Southern England;

June 2007: Yorkshire and Humber region;

January 2005: Carlisle;

August 2004: Boscastle.

In each case, the armed forces provided assistance to the civil authorities.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on progress on *(a)* acquiring six Merlin helicopters from Denmark and *(b)* converting eight Chinook helicopters; [154248]

(2) when he expects the *(a)* six Merlin helicopters from Denmark and *(b)* the eight Chinook helicopters currently being converted to be operational. [154249]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The six Merlin helicopters arrived in the UK in July 2007. These aircraft are currently being configured to UK standards, and are expected to be operational by 31 March 2008. Two aircraft have been delivered to RAF Benson, where air and ground crew training is now under way.

With regard to the conversion of the eight Chinook MK3 helicopters, an initial contract was placed with Boeing on 1 August. On current plans we expect to see the aircraft delivered by the end of 2009.

Military Exercises: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget was for military training exercises in each year since 1997; and what the estimated budget is for each of the next three years. [154233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Navy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the Royal Navy will make to the EU Headline Goal 2010 and interim targets for 2008. [154321]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Headline Goal Questionnaire (HGQ) 2006 details those forces which potentially could be made available for use on EU-led operations. Copies of the HGQ were placed in the Library of the House on 22 June 2007.

There are no interim targets for 2008.

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of British military personnel do not live in permanent buildings in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; [154263]

(2) how many British military personnel are housed in tents in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [154265]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The protection of our forces in Iraq and Afghanistan is of an extremely high priority and a number of improvements have been made, and will continue to be made, to accommodation in both theatres in order to enhance security.

I am withholding information on force protection arrangements at our bases in Iraq and Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Reserve Forces: Driving

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 38WS, on Drivers' Hours (Derogation for Reservists), if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines developed by his Department. [154057]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Formal internal MOD instructions for reservists who may be affected by this amended legislation were developed jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport, and issued in April 2007. All Reserve Units were notified through the chain of command in the normal manner, and employers were made aware of this via the Supporting Britain's Reservists (SaBRE) campaign. This document has been available on the SaBRE website since 10 April, at the following location:

http://www.sabre.mod.uk/output/Page532.asp.

I will place a printed copy of the guidelines in the Library of the House.

UK Hydrographic Office

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the application of the Office of Fair Trading report on Commercial Use of Public Sector Information to the UK Hydrographic Office. [154387]

Derek Twigg: I expect the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) to participate fully in the further work identified in the Government response. This includes the provision of information to HM Treasury's economic study. The study, which is being conducted by Cambridge University, aims to provide cost and benefit information for possible alternative models of supply and charging for public sector information by Trading Funds. The completed study is due to be submitted to Government in mid November 2007.

The UKHO will also, if requested by DBERR and HMT, provide input to their work on the economics of information pricing.

The recommendations included in the market study report will be used to inform licensing policy following completion of the review of the UKHO's structure and ownership. I expect to announce the outcome of the review early in 2008.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the application of the economic review of trading funds to the UK Hydrographic Office. [154388]

Derek Twigg: I assume that this question refers to the Government response to the Power of Information report (recommendations 9, 10 and 12). The Government intend to undertake independent economic work on the costs and benefits of the current trading fund charging model. As one of the five largest trading funds, I expect the UKHO to respond positively to any requests received for information to support this work.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the review of the UK Hydrographic Office is expected to be published. [154389]

Derek Twigg: I commissioned a study of the structure and ownership options for the UK Hydrographic Office which will report to me by the end of the year. I will make a statement to the House in due course.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions Ministers and officials in his Department working on the review of the UK Hydrographic Office have had with HM Treasury on the recently commissioned economic review of trading funds. [154390]

Derek Twigg: In response to the OFT review of Public Information, and the Cabinet Office Power of Information Review, HM Treasury have commissioned work to assess the economic benefit from information created by Trading Funds. HM Treasury officials have requested assistance from the Chief Executives of the Met Office and Hydrographic Office to support the study into availability and charging of public information. MOD officials over seeing the work of the MOD trading funds, including the UKHO ownership and structure options review, will be available to support the HM Treasury Study.

Veterans Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by the Veterans Agency. [154726]

Derek Twigg: The Veterans Agency and the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency merged together on 2 April 2007 to form the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA). SPVA has two people who carry out press officer functions as part of their duties. They also undertake other tasks.

TRANSPORT

A15: Road Traffic

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average daily volume of traffic was between each junction of the A15 within the Peterborough City Council boundaries in each year since 1997. [154071]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The annual average daily flow (AADF) data are available for every link of the A15 in the Peterborough local authority area. These links correspond to sections of the A15 between major junctions. Details of these links and their AADF data for all motor vehicles from 1997 to 2006 can be found in the following tables. The AADF data are rounded to the nearest 100 vehicles.

Census point (CP)	*A-junction: start of road link*	*B-junction: end of road link*
6218	LA Boundary	A1260
77186	A1260	Phorpres Way roundabout
36221	Phorpres Way roundabout	A1129
28020	A1129	A1129
7995	A1129	A605
16206	A605	A605
46221	A605	Bishops Rd roundabout
56220	Bishop's Rd roundabout	A1179
36222	A1179	Westfield Rd roundabout
46222	Westfield rd roundabout	Maskew Ave roundabout
26221	Maskew Ave roundabout	A47
77182	A47	David's Lane roundabout
28804	David's Lane roundabout	B1443
58363	A15 Werrington Parkway	LA Boundary
8679	B1443	A47

AADF, all motor vehicles

Census point (CP)	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
6218	13,800	14,300	13,500	13,400	13,700	14,000	16,400	16,500	15,700	16,100
77186	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,400	5,300	5,400	5,300	5,400	6,200	6,100
36221	5,800	5,800	5,800	6,000	5,800	5,900	5,800	5,900	6,900	6,700
28020	7,900	8,000	8,000	8,100	7,900	8,000	9,400	9,500	9,200	9,100
7995	8,200	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,200	7,500	7,400	7,400	7,200	7,100
16206	23,100	23,400	24,600	24,100	24,500	24,400	24,300	24,300	23,800	23,900
46221	34,300	34,600	34,400	35,000	35,600	35,600	35,400	35,400	34,700	34,800
56220	35,500	35,700	35,500	34,800	33,800	33,700	33,500	33,400	32,700	32,900
36222	41,000	41,200	38,700	37,900	38,500	41,100	40,800	38,000	37,200	37,500
46222	24,900	25,000	24,900	24,400	26,000	26,000	25,900	25,800	25,300	25,400
26221	31,700	31,900	31,700	31,100	31,600	33,000	32,900	32,800	34,700	34,800
77182	28,600	28,700	28,700	29,000	28,200	28,800	28,100	32,700	31,500	27,200
28804	16,100	16,500	17,400	17,200	16,300	16,700	17,200	17,600	17,600	18,000

	AADF, all motor vehicles									
Census point (CP)	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
58363	17,500	17,700	18,100	12,300	12,400	13,300	13,600	15,100	15,100	14,300
8679	19,700	20,200	20,500	13,800	14,700	15,100	13,300	14,100	13,800	14,000

AADF data are currently available from our website: www.dft.gov.uk/matrix/ for 1999-2005.

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reported contaminated air events there were in each of the last five years, broken down by aircraft type. [154090]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I am informed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) there have been 306 reportable occurrences involving contaminated air during the five year period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006, and a further 72 reportable occurrences between 1 January and 30 June 2007—shown as follows:

	Reportable occurrences
2002	40
2003	35
2004	44
2005	78
2006	109
Total	306
2007[1]	72

[1] 1 January 2007 to 30 June 2007.

This number of occurrences is out of an estimated total of 6.5 million flights over the same period by UK operators worldwide in public transport aeroplane operations. These annual totals are broken down by aircraft type in the following tables, specifically listing all aircraft types for which there were five or more reportable occurrences during that period.

Calendar year 2002

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air*
Boeing 757	9
De Havilland DHC8	8
British Aerospace BAe146	5
Embraer EMB 145	5
Various other aircraft types	13
Total	40

Note:
During the same period, there were 1.1 million flights carried out by UK operators worldwide in public transport aeroplane operations.

Calendar year 2003

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air*
Boeing 757	12
Various other aircraft types	23
Total	35

Note:
During the same period, there were 1.1 million flights carried out by UK operators worldwide in public transport aeroplane operations.

Calendar year 2004

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air*
Boeing 757	12
British Aerospace BAe146	6
Embraer EMB 145	6
Various other aircraft types	20
Total	44

Note:
During the same period, there were 1.2 million flights carried out by UK operators worldwide in public transport aeroplane operations.

Calendar year 2005

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air*
Boeing 757	27
British Aerospace BAe146	10
Embraer EMB 145	9
Airbus A319	6
Airbus A320	5
Boeing 737	5
De Havilland DHC8	5
Various other aircraft types	11
Total	78

Note:
During the same period, there were 1.2 million flights carried out by UK operators worldwide in public transport aeroplane operations.

Calendar year 2006

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air*
Boeing 757	43
British Aerospace BAe146	17
Airbus A319	10
Embraer EMB 145	9
Airbus A320	7
Boeing 737	5
Various other aircraft types	18
Total	109

Note:
During the same period, there were 1.3 million flights carried out by UK operators worldwide in public transport aeroplane operations.

1 January to 30 June 2007 inclusive

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air*
Boeing 757	26
British Aerospace BAe146	11
Airbus A319	8
Airbus A320	7
Various other aircraft types	20
Total	72

Note:
Estimate 0.6 million flights by UK operators worldwide in public transport aeroplane operations.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on links between ill-health among air crew and fumes released from aircraft. [154325]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2006 the Department commissioned the independent Committee on Toxicity (COT) to evaluate evidence submitted by the British Air Lines Pilots Association (BALPA) in relation to cabin air "fume events". The COT received information from oil companies, airlines, engine manufacturers, independent scientific experts and pressure groups. The COT reported on 20 September 2007. Its report is published on its website:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/cotnonfood/index.htm.

The Committee on Toxicity considered that it was not possible to conclude whether cabin air exposures (either general or following incidents) cause ill-health in commercial aircraft crews. It recommended further work, in particular, and as a priority, to ascertain whether substances in the cabin environment could potentially be harmful to health. COT considered that this work should be designed to detect any potentially harmful substances, rather than focus on named substances.

In keeping with its commitment to promoting healthy flying, the Department accepts this priority. Through the Aviation Health Working Group, it has recently made preparations for such a study by testing equipment which may be capable of capturing substances released during oil and hydraulic fluid fume incidents. Once effective equipment has been identified it is intended to sample around 1,000 flights using more than one sampling device, more than one laboratory to analyse the results, and an independent project manager from the academic world.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how compliance with Civil Aviation Authority guidance on the use of oxygen masks in air contamination incidents is monitored and enforced. [154324]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has advised that UK air operators whose aircraft are required to be fitted with oxygen equipment must provide guidance to crews on its use in air contamination incidents. This guidance must be retained in their Operations Manual which is checked in the course of normal oversight by the Flight Operations Inspector.

Compliance with the guidance in the event of incidents will be monitored by routine review of Air Safety Reports and Mandatory Occurrence reports. Non-compliance would be raised formally with the aircraft operator, who would be required to propose and implement measures to ensure future compliance.

Airports: Police

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the outcome was of the review of those airports which are not designated for police purposes; and if she will list those airports where the police presence continues to be funded by the local police authority. [155805]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Independent Review of Airport Policing report was submitted to the Department for Transport and Home Office in July 2006. In his written statement of 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 56WS, the Secretary of State welcomed the broad thrust of the review and outlined its key recommendations. His written statement of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 63WS, provided an update on the subsequent work.

The funding arrangements for airports are dependent on whether an airport is designated under section 25 of the Aviation Security Act 1982. There are nine designated airports which are London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Stansted, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow International, Glasgow Prestwick, Birmingham and Manchester. All remaining airports are funded wholly or partly by the local police authority, or by other means, for example voluntary contributions by the airport operator.

Airports: Security

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many security staff have been employed checking departing passengers at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted in each of the last 12 months; and how many departing passengers have been checked during that period. [156323]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK National Aviation Security Programme requires airports to comply with specific security measures which are subject to regular inspection by the Department for Transport to ensure that standards are adhered to. The programme does not mandate the number of security personnel required to undertake security tasks. As private businesses, decisions about staffing are rightly a matter for the airports themselves. All departing passengers and their baggage are all subject to security screening at UK airports.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many items and what tonnage of material have been confiscated from departing passengers as a result of security checks at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted in each of the last 12 months. [156324]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Government do not maintain records as the management of this process and disposal of the items are a matter for airports.

Aviation: Standards

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of *(a)* the extent of overbooking in the airline industry and *(b)* the associated levels of risk to passengers of not being allowed to travel on their pre-booked flight. [156656]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Overbooking is a common practice among airlines and provides for the more efficient use of aircraft, for example where passengers have failed to check in for flights for which they have purchased tickets. The Government do not believe that denied boarding is a widespread problem, based on the relatively small number of complaints on this issue received by the Air Transport Users Council. In the event a passenger is denied boarding, Regulation (EC) 261/2004 sets minimum levels of financial

compensation, and requires passengers to be offered a choice between re-routing and reimbursement.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that all airline passengers are made aware of the risk of not being allowed to travel on their pre-booked flight due to overbooking at the time of purchasing tickets; and if she will make a statement. [156657]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is common practice for airlines' terms and conditions of carriage to include a reference to the possibility of denied boarding and the action they will take to compensate passengers who are inconvenienced in this way. In addition, the website of the Air Transport Users Council includes advice on this issue. The Government do not believe the extent of the problem is such that further action is necessary to highlight this risk to passengers.

Bull Bars: Regulation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what rules apply to the use of bull bars on cars in the UK. [155961]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 25 May 2007, the requirements of EC Directive 2005/66/EC, concerning bull bars, apply to all new cars being registered under the type approval scheme. Similarly, all bull bars offered for sale as an accessory must be approved and carry an approval mark.

Bull bars fitted before this date are subject to the general safety requirements of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.

Bus Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities run night bus schemes; and if she will make a statement. [154764]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities, apart from Transport for London, do not run bus schemes. Operators outside London may wish to run buses during the night and they register these routes with the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA).

Exact information on the number of schemes is not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projected central Government expenditure is per head of population for local public transport for *(a)* London, *(b)* each of the English passenger transport executive areas and *(c)* each of the English regions in each of the next 10 years; and what such expenditure was in each year since 2001-02. [154804]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses include figures for the Department for Transport's expenditure per head of population for local public transport in London and the other English regions. Planned figures are available at this level of disaggregation for 2007-08 but not beyond. Regional figures have not been split down to the passenger transport executive areas.

The following table shows the DFT spend on local public transport per head of population in each English region, including London, for each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08. It includes direct payments from central Government to bus operators, but not financial support for local authorities (including bus services) or funding for heavy rail services. These are both reported elsewhere in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, which are published at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pes_cra/country_region.cfm

DFT spend per head on local public transport

£

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]
North East	12	12	14	9	9	10	11
North West	8	8	10	8	9	9	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	9	9	11	8	9	9	9
East Midlands	7	6	9	6	6	6	6
West Midlands	8	7	10	7	7	7	8
Eastern	19	14	34	6	6	6	6
London	85	59	172	11	13	12	12
South East	13	10	23	5	5	6	6
South West	7	6	9	6	6	6	7

[1] Plans.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department provides to bus operators on the priority to be given to users of pushchairs and wheelchairs when there is insufficient room in a vehicle to carry both. [156160]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Powers granted to Government under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 enabled the Department for Transport to make regulations allowing wheelchair users to access new buses and travel in safety and in reasonable comfort. No such powers were granted in respect of people using pushchairs.

The Department published guidance in 2003 advising bus staff of their duties with respect to disabled passengers, and more than 150,000 copies of this document have been issued.

More recently, the Department has worked with the Disability Rights Commission (now the Commission for Equality and Human Rights) to produce sector

specific guidance for transport operators on avoiding discrimination. The guidance for buses and scheduled coaches provides advice on use of the designated wheelchair space by passengers other than wheelchair users, and this document is available from their website at www.equalityhumanrights.com

While other passengers are at liberty to use the designated wheelchair space when it is not required by a wheelchair user, it should be vacated, if at all possible, when it is required for a wheelchair user to travel.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department provides to bus operators on the safety implications of the carriage of more than one *(a)* wheelchair user and *(b)* pushchair per vehicle; and if she will make a statement. [156161]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) specify vehicle construction requirements to enable disabled passengers, including wheelchair users, to access new buses and travel in safety and reasonable comfort. Each new bus falling with scope of these regulations is required to be fitted with at least one wheelchair space.

The Public Service Vehicles (Conduct of Drivers, Inspectors, Conductors and Passengers)(Amendment) Regulations 2002 require that the driver of a bus which complies with the PSVAR allow a wheelchair user to board if the designated wheelchair space is unoccupied, and it is safe to do so. An operator should not transport more occupied wheelchairs than there are designated wheelchair spaces on their vehicle. The Department published guidance in 2003 advising bus staff of their duties with respect to disabled passengers, and more than 150,000 copies of this document have been issued.

There are neither regulations nor guidance relating specifically to the safe carriage of pushchairs on buses. However, there are general regulations in force which seek to protect the safety of all passengers on buses.

Buses: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of how many and what percentage of the bus fleet have hybrid engines, broken down by region. [154807]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of hybrid-electric buses cannot currently be identified from the DVLA vehicle registration database.

Car Hire: Driving Offences

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* traffic offences occurred involving hire cars in each of the last five years. [154748]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Cars

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment the Government has made of the top speeds of the most popular cars currently using British roads and of trends in the advertised top speeds of vehicles sold in the UK. [156555]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have made no assessment of the top speeds of cars using British roads, nor of trends in the advertised top speeds of vehicles sold in the UK. However the Government reached an agreement with the Advertising Standards Agency (ASA) about not glamorising speed and all advertisements have to be pre-cleared.

Civil Aviation Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the Civil Aviation Authority. [154554]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the CAA's Corporate Communications department, there are three full-time press officers and two members of staff who job-share a press officer post.

Cycling: Accidents

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were seriously injured in collisions between cyclists and pedestrians in each of the last five years. [156426]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of people seriously injured in reported personal injury accidents between pedal cyclists and pedestrians in each of last five years is shown as follows:

	Number of serious casualties
2002	57
2003	53
2004	57
2005	65
2006	57

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents there were involving cyclists in *(a)* Wirral, South and *(b)* Merseyside in each of the last five years. [156464]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cyclist in *(a)* Wirral, South and *(b)* Merseyside in each of the past five years is shown in the table.

	Number of accidents	
	Wirral South	*Merseyside*
2002	13	353
2003	21	284
2004	16	326
2005	13	350
2006	21	311

Cycling: Safety Measures

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of cycle helmet wearing rates; and if she will make a statement. [156460]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The findings of surveys of helmet wearing rates on major and minor built up roads from 1994 to 2004 and 1999 to 2004 are shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Cycle helmet wearing rates on major built up roads 1994 to 2004

Percentage

	1994	1996	1999	2002	2004
Male					
Under 16	16.0	13.3	12.7	12.3	10.8
16 years and over	15.5	16.7	22.2	25.2	28.7
Female					
Under 16	21.9	17.6	20.9	24.4	26.3
16 years and over	17.0	17.5	22.2	27.0	29.7
All					
Under 16	17.6	14.4	15.0	15.3	14.1
16 years and over	15.9	17.0	22.2	25.7	29.0

Table 2: Cycle helmet wearing rates on minor built up roads 1999-2004

Percentage

	1999	2002	2004
All cyclists	8.2	9.5	9.6
Males	8.2	9.2	9.0
Females	8.1	10.1	12.5
All under 16	9.7	6.5	6.4
All 16 and over	7.4	10.9	11.3

The 2006 survey of cycle helmet wearing rates will be published later this year.

Derry City Airport

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the investigation of the runway subsidence incident at Derry City airport on 8 August 2007; and what the conclusions of the investigation were. [156712]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The aerodrome conducted an immediate investigation into the incident that occurred on 8 August 2007 and the report was presented to the CAA. The investigation revealed that the First Choice aircraft (airbus A320) that had arrived from Reus (Spain) was unable to access the main aircraft parking area due to congestion. In agreement with Air Traffic Control (ATC) the aircraft was initially held on a taxiway until space became available. While holding on the taxiway, the main aircraft wheels sank into the taxiway surface.

The report concluded that the aircraft should not have been held on that taxiway, as the taxiway was not designed to accept the weight of the A320 aircraft. The aerodrome operator subsequently issued an operating instruction that prevents aircraft of this size using that taxiway in the future. They have also commissioned a review of the pavement strength for the main runway and other paved surfaces. The United Kingdom Aeronautical Information Package (UKAIP) entry for the aerodrome has also been amended to reflect the pavement values for the aerodrome surfaces. They have also instigated a review of the equivalent commercial information available to pilots.

The aerodrome is also planning a new extension to the aircraft parking area in 2008 that will provide additional parking stands, which should reduce the need for aircraft to hold pending stand availability. This will include a new direct taxiway from the main runway.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency provides information about UK driving licence holders and registered owners of cars to *(a)* European and *(b)* other countries; whether there have been recent changes in policy; and if she will make a statement. [154213]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is a member of EUCARIS (the European Car and Driving Licence Information System) which electronically links the databases of participating European registration authorities. The EUCARIS treaty permits the checking of information when a driving licence is produced for exchange or a vehicle registration document is applied for.

Driving licence information is currently exchanged only between Great Britain, Germany, Latvia, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, and is restricted to the following information:

Full name of licence holder

Date of birth

Place of birth

Categories of vehicle the holder is permitted to drive

The validity period and date of issue

Restrictions/signals (e.g. stolen, lost, withdrawn, duplicate, invalid etc.).

Vehicle data can be exchanged with Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Romania and Sweden. Information exchanged is restricted to Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), registration mark, make, model, date of first registration (if applicable), colour, fuel type and whether there are any restrictions or signals (e.g. stolen, vehicle scrapped or documents/plates stolen or missing).

Information is exchanged only with registration authorities of countries outside the EU where they have adequate data protection laws. This is conducted on a case-by-case basis. There has not been any recent policy changes.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Telephone Services

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what revenue the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency received from its use of 0870 numbers in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [156670]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2190-91W.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was raised in fines from traffic cameras in Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years; and how much of the money raised was spent on road safety in each year. [153765]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department only holds information about speed and red-light cameras operating under the national safety camera programme, the audit certificates for the Cambridgeshire Safety Camera Partnership for the last five financial years outlined in table A show the fine revenue from conditional offer of fixed penalties for offences detected by speed and red light cameras operating under the then National Safety Camera Programme.

Table A

	£
2001-02	135,420
2002-03	771,360
2003-04	1,245,780
2004-05	1,196,460
2005-06	1,259,880

Under the then netting off funding arrangements, safety camera partnerships reclaimed expenditure directly attributed to the prevention, detection and enforcement of offences, the amounts reclaimed by the Cambridgeshire partnership in these financial years is set out in table B. the surplus was returned to the Consolidated Fund.

Table B

	£
2001-02	113,760
2002-03	728,192
2003-04	1,090,937
2004-05	1,021,261
2005-06	1,027,705

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* over and *(b)* under the age of 25 years held a full UK driving licence in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [156031]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Statistics are held for local authorities and regions for 2006 only. Information is not held by constituency so we are unable to supply data for Jarrow. The Department for Transport only hold figures for Great Britain.

Area	*Under 25*	*Over 25*	*Total*
South Tyneside	6,020	65,373	71,393
North East	114,893	1,178,712	1,293,605
GB	2,927,219	31,848,368	34,775,587

Source:
DfT January 2006 Census

Drivers statistics collated prior to January 2006 are only available as national (GB) totals.

	Under 25	*Over 25*	*Total*
July 1997	3,645,225	28,684,003	32,329,228
April 1998	3,500,031	29,032,186	32,532,217
April 1999	3,234,582	29,434,406	32,668,988
September 2000	2,965,137	29,915,224	32,880,361
January 2001	2,935,143	30,005,339	32,940,482
November 2003	2,805,722	30,965,965	33,771,687
January 2006	2,927,219	31,848,368	34,775,587

Source:
Various DfT Drivers Censuses

The Drivers Census is run on a sporadic basis. That is the reason why there appear to be missing years in the table.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female car driving licence holders have unendorsed licences. [156554]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Although DVLA records details of driving convictions on its driving licence records, it does not have available a statistical breakdown of the numbers of male and female drivers who have unendorsed licences.

Driving: Working Hours

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 38WS, on drivers' hours (derogation for reservists), what steps have been taken with regard to a derogation for reservists from Regulation (EC) 561/2006; and what progress has been made in securing this change. [156401]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As set out in the written ministerial statement of 11 June 2007 we have written to the European Commission requesting an exemption from the weekly rest requirements of Regulation (EC) 561/2006 for professional drivers when undertaking military training as a reservist with the volunteer reserve forces or acting as instructors in the cadet corps at the weekend. This request was made in accordance with Article 14.1 of the Regulation which provides for exceptions in exceptional circumstances.

The European Commission are currently considering our request and discussions are ongoing.

Electric Vehicles

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of cars on British roads were electric or hybrid vehicles *(a)* 10 years ago and *(b)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [156557]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number and percentage of licensed electric or hybrid electric cars in Great Britain at *(a)* the end of 1997 and *(b)* the end of 2006 were as follows:

	Number	*Percentage*
1997	94	< 0.01
2006	17,618	0.06

Ferries: Lymington

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the environmental impact of plans to increase the water displacement of ferries between Lymington and Yarmouth; and if she will make a statement. [156383]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has received one written representation from a private individual on this subject which included environmental impact concerns. The MCA would expect Wightlink to take these concerns into consideration in its plans for the replacement of the existing vessels. The MCA's primary concern will be the safety of the new vessels and of other users of the waters in which the vessels will be operating.

Freight: Liverpool

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what planning assumptions have been made about the likely growth in freight volumes through the port of Liverpool. [156556]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has itself made no such assumptions: planning to meet growth in traffic is a matter for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. In relation to containers specifically, the Company's evidence to the inquiry last year into the application for a Harbour Revision Order to permit development of the Seaforth River Terminal included a projection to 2015 of the trend growth-rate of 5.1 per cent. per annum which had been experienced over the 10 years to 2005.

Limehouse Station

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Safety Inspectorate last inspected c2c's platform capacity at Limehouse Station during peak travel times; and if she will make a statement. [156394]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for c2c.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the number of uninsured vehicles on British roads; and what assessment she has made of trends in numbers of uninsured vehicles. [156319]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our latest estimate (2005) for uninsured driving is based on a comparison of the vehicle register, maintained by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the Motor Insurance Database. It is that there are about 2.1 million licensed vehicles (about 6.5 per cent. of the UK vehicle fleet) being driven by uninsured drivers.

We have no long-term evidence on trends, however we will make a more up to date assessment of the levels of uninsured driving and there is some recent evidence from the insurance industry showing that for the year 2006 there was a 4.2 per cent. drop in claims for compensation for the victims of uninsured drivers.

Departments: Information Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many press officers are employed by Trinity House; [154656]

(2) how many press officers are employed by the Northern Lighthouse Board. [154666]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Trinity House and the Northern Lighthouse Board employed one full-time member of staff each on press officer activities as at 1 September 2007.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many press officers are employed by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency; [154718]

(2) how many press officers are employed by the Driving Standards Agency. [154719]

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the Vehicle Certification Agency. [154664]

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. [154431]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [154163]

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the Highways Agency. [154125]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The full-time equivalent number of staff employed on press officer activities on 1 September 2007 by DfT executive agencies is as follows:

	Press office staff (FTE)
DSA	2
DVLA	5
GCDA	0
HA	11
MCA	2
VCA	0

	Press office staff (FTE)
VOSA	1
Total	21

Press office activities in most agencies are not carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose.

Public Service Vehicles: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to promote the use of low emission hybrid engines in public transport vehicles; and if she will make a statement. [154808]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government policies to support low carbon transport technologies are set out in the Low Carbon Transport Innovation Strategy (LCTIS) published in May 2007.

The Government currently provide funding for low carbon technology research and development through the grant programme managed by the Energy Saving Trust. As announced in LCTIS, this funding will in the future be managed by the Technology Strategy Board through their Low Carbon Vehicle Innovation Platform providing up to £30 million per annum. The programme is technology neutral and will be open to developments of hybrid technology in public transport vehicles.

Railways: Flood Control

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which railway lines had services cancelled owing to flooded lines in June and July 2007. [153851]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Ian Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London, NW1 2DE

Railways: Kent

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many carriages are currently *(a)* in service and *(b)* out of service on the Kent Integrated Franchise. [153898]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are 1,292 carriages in operation on the franchise. 18 carriages are currently not in service due to fire, crash and derailment damage.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which platforms on the North Kent lines between London and Dartford need lengthening to accommodate 12 car trains; and when she expects this work to be completed; [154701]

(2) what discussions her Department has had with Southeastern Trains on introducing 12 car trains; and if she will make a statement; [154702]

(3) what estimate she has made of the future demands for extra capacity on North Kent services between London and Dartford; and if she will make a statement. [154704]

Mr. Tom Harris: The rail White Paper published in July set out the safety, reliability and capacity improvements the Government want to buy by 2014. The next step in the process is for the industry to consider in more detail how best to deliver those improvements, though the specimen capacity options published in conjunction with the White Paper did identify platform lengthening on two of the three London to Dartford routes as a scheme which could contribute towards achieving the capacity target.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the performance of *(a)* Southeastern Trains and *(b)* the previous operator for North Kent services between London and Dartford over equivalent periods; and if she will make a statement. [154703]

Mr. Tom Harris: "Southeastern" is the current operator of trains in south east London and Kent, including services between London and Dartford. Southeastern took control of this franchise in April 2006. The previous operator was South Eastern Trains.

Since April 2006, average punctuality and reliability on Southeastern's routes improved from 86.7 per cent. to 88.9 per cent. The previous operator, South Eastern Trains, had been responsible for raising average performance from 79.4 per cent. when it took over operations in November 2003.

Figures reflect the performance of all services operated by this franchise, as the Department does not hold the data for the London-Dartford routes on their own.

Railways: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to increase railway capacity on services between Peterborough and London in terms of the number of *(a)* new carriages and *(b)* capacity for more passengers; and when the new carriages will be rolled out. [154328]

Mr. Tom Harris: A fleet of new trains is due to be introduced on the Peterborough to London route as part of the final stage of the Thameslink Programme in December 2015. In the meantime, the December 2008 timetable will see an extra 16 carriages on London to Peterborough and Cambridge routes. This will allow key peak services to provide an additional 1,779 and 2,490 seats in the morning and evening peaks respectively.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking with train operators to improve *(a)* ticket pricing, *(b)* onboard facilities and *(c)* punctuality. [153313]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government regulate rail fares where operators are likely to have a high degree of market power. Increases in regulated fares are limited to RPI+1 per cent. and the Secretary of State for Transport recently announced that regulated fares will be capped at this level until at least 2014. Fares that are not subject to regulation are priced at the discretion of train operators. However, the recent White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", concluded that the fares structure requires simplification for the benefit of passengers and announced its intention to work with the rail industry to implement a simplified fares structure.

Facilities on board trains are a matter for train operators and the rolling stock companies. They are required to comply with relevant safety and accessibility regulations but decisions on other facilities are a matter for them.

The rail industry has continued sustained improvement in punctuality since 2002 and reliability is now back above pre-Hatfield levels. The recent White Paper announced the Government's intention to specify an overall improvement in train reliability (in terms of the public performance measure) of 92.6 per cent. by 2014, compared to a current industry reliability figure of 88.1 per cent. Franchise agreements with train operators contain performance standards that the operators have a contractual obligation to meet and the Department for Transport has sanctions that it can take to ensure that train operators meet their performance obligations.

Railways: Stansted Airport

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if officials in her Department will meet representatives of Central Trains to discuss the possibility of providing earlier weekday and weekend services between Peterborough and Stansted Airport. [154066]

Mr. Tom Harris: Responsibility for train services between Peterborough and Stansted Airport will transfer from Central Trains to Arriva Trains Cross Country on 11 November. The issue of service enhancement to and from Stansted Airport was raised with bidders as part of the franchise bidding process.

Arriva Trains Cross Country have confirmed to the Department that they are seeking improved services to and from the airport and are actively exploring options for the December 2008 timetable change.

Road Traffic Control: Disabled

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance is issued by the Department for Transport to highway authorities on consulting people with disabilities before the construction of traffic calming measures. [156582]

Ms Rosie Winterton: "Local Transport Note 1/07 Traffic Calming" (Department for Transport, 2007) contains guidance on consultation (including consultation with people with disabilities) before the construction of traffic calming measures.

Roads: Accidents

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal accidents where a medical condition was a contributory factor were recorded in each of the last five years. [153750]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of fatal road accidents in which any participant had "illness or disability, mental or physical" as a contributory factor was 132 in 2005 and 127 in 2006.

2005 is the earliest year for which this information is available.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many people *(a)* over and *(b)* under the age of 25 years holding a full UK driving licence were killed in road accidents whilst driving a car in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997; [156030]

(2) how many people *(a)* over and *(b)* under the age of 25 who did not hold a full UK driving licence were killed in a road accident while driving a car in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997; [156660]

(3) how many people *(a)* over and *(b)* under the age of 25 who did not hold a full UK driving licence were injured in a road accident while driving a car in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [156661]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in road accidents in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997. [156036]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of killed and injured casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997 is shown in the table.

Number of casualties

	Severity	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*England and Wales*
1997	Killed	0	2	135	3,222
	Injured	364	562	12,532	301,978
1998	Killed	1	2	121	3,036
	Injured	352	548	12,189	299,720
1999	Killed	6	6	126	3,113
	Injured	302	511	11,410	296,360
2000	Killed	1	3	93	3,084
	Injured	324	544	11,667	296,724
2001	Killed	1	1	102	3,103
	Injured	318	516	11,515	290,350
2002	Killed	2	3	126	3,127
	Injured	338	530	11,580	280,229
2003	Killed	3	7	132	3,177

Number of casualties

	Severity	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East	England and Wales
	Injured	336	530	11,746	268,758
2004	Killed	3	5	128	2,915
	Injured	311	508	11,330	259,534
2005	Killed	1	1	108	2,915
	Injured	284	502	10,782	250,307
2006	Killed	1	7	109	2,858
	Injured	225	427	10,255	238,411

Roads: Flood Control

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which stretches of motorways were closed in June and July 2007 because of floods. [153842]

Mr. Tom Harris: The stretches of motorways closed due to floods during June and July 2007 are given in table 1 as follows.

Table 1: Motorway closures due to flooding June and July 2007

Closures Motorway and junction(s)	Date in June/July
A1(M) J35	26 June 2007
M1 J36 to 35a	26 June 2007 to 28 June 2007
M1 J36 - M1 J32 exit slip-roads	26 June 2007
M1 J35 entry slip-road	15 June 2007
M1 J35	26 June 2007 to 28 June 2007
M1 J34 exit slip-road	15 June 2007
M1 J34 exit slip-road	25 June 2007
M1 J34 southbound	26 June 2007 to 27 June 2007
M1 J33 slip-roads	26 June 2007 to 27 June 2007
M1 J32 northbound	26 June 2007 to 28 June 2007
M1 J32 (northbound slip-roads J33-34)	26 June 2007 to 28 June 2007
M1 J32-J34	26 June 2007
M4 westbound, J1 to J2 (elevated section)	14 June 2007
M4 eastbound J3 entry-slip	15 June 2007
Hard shoulder and lane 1 closure	
M25 clockwise, J7-J8 lane 4 closure	20 July 2007
M25 clockwise, J8-J9 total closure	20 July 2007
M5 J14 entry slip northbound	20 July 2007
M5 J13 entry slip northbound	20 July 2007
M5 J12 entry slip northbound	20 July 2007
M5 J11 entry slip northbound	20 July 2007
M5 J11a northbound travelling to A417 eastbound slip road closed	20 July 2007
M5 between Junctions 11a and 12 southbound lane 1 closure	20 July 2007
M5 J10 entry slip northbound	20 July 2007
M5 J9 full closure in both directions	20 July 2007
M5 J4a southbound closed including J5, J6, J7 and J8 entry slips	20 July 2007 to 21 July 2007
M18-M1 J32 slips	26 June 2007
M18 J1 slip-roads	26 June 2007

Table 1: Motorway closures due to flooding June and July 2007

Closures Motorway and junction(s)	Date in June/July
M40 DBFO Warwick Services north and southbound entry slip	14 June 2007
M40 DBFO Warwick Services northbound entry slip	20 July 2007
M54 J6 westbound on slip	25 June 2007 to 26 June 2007
M50 westbound exit slip J1—closed due to flooding on A38	20 July 2007 to 21 July 2007
M50 (M5 J8-J4) closed in both directions	20 July 2007 to 21 July 2007

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on which *(a)* motorways and *(b)* trunk roads the Highways Agency used (i) water containment and (ii) pumps to respond to floods since the beginning of June 2007. [153841]

Mr. Tom Harris: The stretches of motorways and trunk roads on which the Highways Agency used water containment and/or pumps since the beginning of June 2007 is given in Tables 1 and 2 as follows. Several instances arose where flood warning signs were erected and gully clearance was necessary; these have not been included in the tables.

Table 1: Motorways where containment/pumps were used due to floods from June 2007 to-date

Motorway	Water containment (e.g. sandbags, barriers, etc.) Yes: comment/no	Pumps used. Yes: comment/no
A1(M) J8 northbound exit slip	Emergency lane 1 closure installed and emergency flood warning boards erected.	Stationary Pumps
A1(M) J8 northbound exit slip	Flood warning boards erected	Stationary Pumps
M1 J22 to 23 northbound	Flooding on the hard shoulder after heavy rain. Trenches dug in the verge to assist in drainage. Water receded.	No
M1 J19 southbound bottom of exit slip	No	Flooding on slip road from heavy rain—water cleared with pump
M1 Junction 38 northbound	No	Pumps used to protect farm property and livestock as river burst its banks
M3 J4	Sandbags for private property surface water not from the highway	No
M6 J13 and 14 northbound	Flooding on hard shoulder from heavy rainfall. Trench dug at rear of gulley and water receded. Road then swept dry.	No

Table 1: Motorways where containment/pumps were used due to floods from June 2007 to-date

Motorway	Water containment (e.g. sandbags, barriers, etc.) Yes: comment/no	Pumps used. Yes: comment/no
M6 J14 to 15 northbound	Flooding on hard shoulder from heavy rain. Trenches dug in verge and water drained away.	No
M62 J26 eastbound	Sandbags used	No

Table 2: Trunk Roads where containment/pumps were used due to floods from June 2007 to-date

Trunk road	Water containment (e.g. sandbags, barriers, etc.)	Pumps used. yes/no
A1 Catterick	No	2 vactor units (which is a lorry with a watertank and pump) to keep the gullies clear.
DBFO A1 Darrington to Dishforth Wetherby	No	Pump used for loading water tanker for discharge off site and redirecting water into adjacent drainage system
A1 Nottinghamshire, Worksop and Retford	Sandbags at a number of locations to restrict flow of surface water off adjoining fields.	No
A3 Send	Flood boards	No
A5 westbound at Churchbridge nr. Cannock	No	Sheer volume of rainfall on the carriageway caused flooding of foul drainage lifting cover, allowing sewage onto carriageway—specialist contractor clearance using pumps to transfer waste to tank.
A5 Towcester	Sandbags used	No
A5 southbound, Duncote	Sandbags used	No
A5 north and southbound, Sheep Lane	No	Fire brigade supported with pumps.
A14 Bury St. Edmunds	No	Water pumped away into tanker
A27 Chichester	No	Pumps were used to remove water from the carriageway on three separate occasions
A34 Chievely	No	Pump was used to filter water out the Chievely Depot (which was flooded by pond) onto HA land at M4/A34 Chievely junction 13
A45/A46 Tollbar Island north and southbound Coventry	No	Pumped water to tanker

Table 2: Trunk Roads where containment/pumps were used due to floods from June 2007 to-date

Trunk road	Water containment (e.g. sandbags, barriers, etc.)	Pumps used. yes/no
A46 Nottinghamshire, Bingham	No	Pumps used to remove surface water from carriageway at two locations
A50 Junction 24A Lockington Island nr. Derby	No	Flooding on one side of the island. Gulley jetted and water pumped to tanker
A50 east and westbound at Meir Tunnel—nr. Stoke on Trent	No	Tunnel closed due to heavy rainfall flooding tunnel. Gullies and interceptors jetted and water pumped to specialist tanker
A50 eastbound and westbound Meir tunnel nr. Stoke on Trent	No	Tunnel closure due to flooding from heavy rainfall. Catchpits pumped to tanker
A65 Coniston Cold	Flood boards erected on two separate occasions	No
A65 Settle	Flood boards	No
A66 Temple Sowerby	Flood boards erected on two separate occasions	No
A66 Crackenthorpe	Flood boards erected	No
A259 Rye	No	Pumps were used to remove water from the carriageway
A259 Bexhill	Flood boards and coned area temporarily	Pumps were used to remove water from the carriageway
A259 (underpass)[1] Bexhill	No	Pumps were used to remove water from the underpass
A428 east and westbound Cambourne Duals	No	Pumps were used to remove water
A590 Lindal-in-Furness	Flood boards erected	No
A616 at Midhopestones	No	Pumps used to pump standing water from highway over a wall into underbank reservoir
A616 at Midhopestones	50 sandbags used	Pumps used to pump standing water from highway over a wall into underbank reservoir

[1] The A259 underpass was affected on thirteen separate occasions. The Highways Agency are aware of the flooding issues there and are currently designing a scheme that will solve the problem this financial year.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many programmed road surface repairs there are. [156419]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally for local roads. Highway maintenance on local roads in England is the responsibility of each

local highways authority. All local highway authorities have been encouraged to produce asset management plans for their roads. These will consist of inventories of stock, its existing condition, and target condition based upon desired service levels. This information will assist local highway authorities to programme their road surface repairs.

The Department has also endorsed "Well maintained highways", the code of practice for highway maintenance produced by the UK Roads Board. The document which can be found at www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org provides best practice guidance on the programming of highway maintenance.

The Highways Agency are responsible for highway maintenance on the strategic road network in England. Their programme is sub-divided into significant renewal schemes and small works. Both types of programme may fluctuate, depending on the overall state of network assets and in-year urgency for tackling unexpected deterioration. The condition target for the strategic road network is measured by a road surface condition index. This target has been met since it was introduced in 2004-05.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the likelihood of achieving the 2010 target for eliminating the road maintenance backlog. [156421]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Road Maintenance Condition Survey for 2005 showed that the 10 Year Plan interim target to halt carriageway deterioration by 2004 had been achieved. We have encouraged local authorities to produce asset management plans for local roads. As more of these become available we expect to gain a better understanding of the investment required to bring local road conditions up to the appropriate operational standards.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of local authorities' budgets for road maintenance are required to be allocated to road preservation. [156422]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport provides local authorities in England (outside London) with funding support for capital highway maintenance funding for investment in their network, including its structures and street lighting. Revenue funding provided through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) may also be used for highway maintenance. Neither funding is ring fenced. It is for each local authority to determine how their allocations are spent, in line with their priorities. Funding in London is a matter for the mayor.

Shipping: Scotland

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings have taken place between her Department and the Scottish Executive's *(a)* Marine Directorate and *(b)* Transport Directorate since May regarding the devolution of further powers for the Scottish Parliament under UK marine legislation. [155754]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No such meetings have been held and none have been requested by the Scottish Executive.

Taxis

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with the Transport Occupational Command Unit regarding *(a)* the number of crimes committed by illegal minicab drivers and *(b)* proposed measures to reduce the number of illegal minicabs operating in London. [153876]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not had any discussions with the Transport Operational Command Unit on these matters. However, we keep in touch with TfL officials about a range of taxi-related issues. We are aware, through discussions with TfL, that the unit undertakes dedicated enforcement activities in respect of illegal minicab drivers in London using a variety of methods including multi-agency road checks and visits to operators. We are also aware of TfL's initiative to enhance safety for passengers through its "Safer Travel at Night" campaign.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to reduce the number of illegal minicab drivers operating in *(a)* London and *(b)* England. [153873]

Ms Rosie Winterton: If individuals provide a minicab service without holding the requisite licences they are committing an offence. Responsibility for enforcing the law rests with Transport for London within London and the relevant local licensing authority elsewhere in England. The police also, of course, have a role to play in enforcing the law.

Last year we brought forward a change in the law which will establish a more comprehensive system for licensing minicabs (private hire vehicles—PHVs). Section 53 of the Road Safety Act 2006 repeals the exemption from PHV licensing outside London for vehicles which work on contracts lasting not less than seven days. When the repeal takes effect—in January 2008—it will be much harder for operators and drivers to evade licensing. A similar provision (section 54 of the Act) will bring operators and drivers dedicated to contract work in London within the PHV licensing regime—in March 2008.

Taxis: Bus Lanes

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London's office and *(b)* Transport for London on the access of private hire vehicles to bus lanes. [153874]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department keeps in touch with TfL officials about a range of issues related to TfL's responsibilities for taxis and private hire vehicles, including the question of PHV access to bus lanes. We are aware that TfL are giving consideration to this

question. As part of this, they have sought the Department's advice on the road signs that would be required.

I am not aware of any discussions with the Mayor of London's office on this issue.

Taxis: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2195-6W, on taxis: licensing, what assumptions were made about the *(a)* total number of currently unlicensed drivers, *(b)* number of vehicles, *(c)* number of operators and *(d)* average licence fees when making the estimate referred to; and how the estimate of total costs of £1 million was reached. [155916]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimate of £1 million was included in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for the proposal to repeal the private hire vehicle (PHV) contract exemption; a copy of this is in the Library of the House. The RIA was based on the following assumptions: (a) 2000 drivers, (b) 2000 vehicles and (c) 300 operators would have to be licensed as a direct result of the repeal of the contract exemption. Average fees for each of the licences were assumed to be £250, £200 and £400 respectively.

These estimates and assumptions were based on the fact that the terms of the contract exemption are narrow and apply in a relatively limited number of cases. They made no allowance for cases now coming to light where transport providers might have believed, or claimed, that they were covered by the exemption but were not in reality so covered. A number of these cases are, and will remain, outside the definition of a PHV in the legislation and therefore will still not need to be licensed. Others should have been licensed as PHVs in the past and repeal of itself will not therefore create a new requirement to meet licensing costs. The Department has sought the views of stakeholders on draft guidance for local licensing authorities on the impact of the repeal and we expect to publish the final version of this shortly.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what checks her Department makes on non-British drivers who work with a valid licence as taxi drivers in the UK. [156558]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities in England and Wales (outside London) and Transport for London (in London) are responsible for licensing taxi drivers.

The relevant legislation states that taxi drivers outside London must have held a full GB or EU driver licence for 12 months. In addition, local licensing authorities must satisfy themselves that an applicant for a taxi driver licence is a "fit and proper" person to hold such a licence. The way in which they carry out this assessment is a matter for individual authorities.

However, the Department has produced Best Practice Guidance to assist local licensing authorities; the guidance includes advice about carrying out background checks on applicants from elsewhere in the EU and other overseas countries and relevant sources of information.

Thameslink Railway Line

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when work will commence to install the two extra rail lines north of London Bridge to accommodate Thameslink services; and when such work will be completed. [154705]

Mr. Tom Harris: Preliminary work is scheduled to begin in January 2009. The work will be completed by 2015.

Tolls: Manchester

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received about the proposed congestion charge in Greater Manchester. [154063]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) have submitted a business case for Transport Innovation Fund funding for a package to tackle congestion by combining transport investment and road pricing. We are currently assessing the case.

Travel: Concessions

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which local authorities have implemented public transport discount schemes for those aged 18 years and under; [153759]

(2) what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the financing of public transport discount schemes for young people. [153840]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no statutory obligation on local authorities to implement concessionary fare schemes for young people. Therefore the Department does not issue guidance on the financing of such schemes nor hold information on which local authorities have introduced them.

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward amendments to the provisions of the transport legislation which prevent the disabled and medically disadvantaged from using public transport at discounted rates for their journeys to work at peak times. [156567]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007, which received Royal Assent on 19 July 2007, provides for free off-peak local bus travel throughout England for older and eligible disabled England residents from April 2008. The Act improves on the existing statutory minimum entitlement of free travel within an eligible person's local authority area.

Local authorities retain the flexibility to offer more than the statutory minimum concession to their residents, which can include free or discounted travel at peak times for older and disabled people, and travel on other modes like trams or trains. Many authorities do

offer additional concessions, funded locally, taking into account local circumstances.

In addition, the Government requires train operating companies to participate in the Disabled Persons Railcard scheme, which provides a third off most tickets, including at peak times.

The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 contains powers allowing the Government to further extend the statutory minimum concession in the future, both on buses and on other modes.

Travel: Paris

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of passenger journeys from *(a)* all English and *(b)* London airports in each of the last five years to (i) Paris and (ii) Brussels were undertaken by (A) air, (B) rail and (C) road. [154746]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not possible to provide the information exactly as requested. However, the International Passenger Survey can show the number of passenger trips to Paris and Brussels made by air (from London and other UK airports) and by train (Eurostar). The number of trips to Paris and Brussels by road is not available.

Number of trips to Paris and Brussels from the UK by air and rail, 2002-06

		Paris	Thousand Brussels
2002	London airports	901	362
	Other UK airports	1,183	478
	Train routes	2,391	599
2003	London airports	872	305
	Other UK airports	1,333	375
	Train routes	2,303	648
2004	London airports	824	328
	Other UK airports	1,328	367
	Train routes	2,628	736
2005	London airports	784	293
	Other UK airports	1,324	348
	Train routes	2,732	758
2006	London airports	800	263
	Other UK airports	1,315	339
	Train routes	2,745	811

Notes:
1. London airports cover Heathrow, Gatwick and London City.
2. 'Train routes' include Eurostar foot passengers from both Waterloo and Ashford.

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

Travel: Young People

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to promote walking and cycling strategies for young people, with particular reference to schemes other than the school journey. [153757]

Ms Rosie Winterton: While we make no excuse for focusing on walking and cycling strategies which can help children walk and cycle to school, young people can also benefit from many of our other initiatives to encourage people to walk and cycle more. Cycle training teaches young people a life skill which enables them to undertake a range of journeys, not just to school. Evidence shows our safe routes to school are also being used by the wider population to access other locations on foot or by bike.

Many of the improvements local authorities are making to local cycling infrastructure and cycle networks can also benefit young people. One of our 6 Cycle Demonstration owns, Derby, has a specific focus on targeting improvements to encourage those under 25 to cycle.

We are also continuing to monitor progress on our Walking and Cycling Action Plan which aims to increase levels of walking and cycling to reduce congestion, improve public health and provide for more pleasant public space. Progress reports on the action plan are placed on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.hcst?n=12069&1=2

The next update will be in October 2007.

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that the views of those aged 18 years and under are taken into account in the consultation on the draft Transport Bill. [153762]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As part of the public consultation into the draft Local Transport Bill, the British Youth Council, the National Black Boys Can Association, the National Youth Agency and the Regional Work Unit (North East) were all sent the consultation documents and invited to submit their views.

I have also been consulting with a number of stakeholders about the draft Bill as part of a regional tour over the summer. One group that I met in Newcastle were the Bus Buddies, a group of young people with an interest in public transport, who were given the opportunity to ask questions about the Bill.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's promotional campaign encouraging local authorities to use recycled aggregate. [156420]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has not made a formal assessment of the impact of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) information service on the sustainable use of aggregates.

The Department will shortly complete some research on behalf of the UK Roads Board on sustainable choice of materials for highway works. This will be published as a guide for local authority highway engineers and will describe in detail the benefits of

recycling aggregates where appropriate, as well as providing links to WRAP information.

The Department endorses "Well-maintained Highways" (TSO, 2005 or www.ukroadsliaison group.org), the UK Roads Board's code of practice on highways maintenance. This provides best practice guidance on preparing a policy for sustainable development in highway maintenance and draws local authorities' attention to WRAP's activities.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Modernisation

25. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Leader of the House when she expects to announce further proposals to modernise the House. [156079]

Helen Goodman: The Government are currently considering their detailed response to the First Report of the Modernisation Committee of session 2006-07, on "revitalising the chamber: the role of the back bench Member", published in June. I hope to publish the response and to being specific proposals to the House shortly.

Regional Select Committees

26. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has for the membership of the proposed regional select committees to reflect the composition of the House in respect of each such region. [156080]

Helen Goodman: The Government are considering how best to take forward the ideas in the Governance of Britain Green Paper for committees to reflect the English regions. Any proposals will be announced in due course.

Statutory Instruments

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House if she will ask the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons to consider proposals to allow statutory instruments to be amended in committee. [156075]

Helen Goodman: The Government have no plans to do so.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many press officers are employed by the House. [154146]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Media and Communications Service consists of nine staff: the Communications Adviser, five Select Committee Media Officers, two Media and Communications Officers and a Media and Communications Assistant.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Careers Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* annual budget and *(b)* staff complement of the new adult careers service will be; and when will it be established. [154313]

Mr. Lammy: Our aim is for the new, universal adult careers service to be fully operational in 2010-11 and to trial aspects of the new service, including new skills health checks, during 2008-09. We are working with the Department for Work and Pensions and other partners on the development and planning of the new service and decisions on resources for the new service will be taken in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Apprentices

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship places there are; how many are filled; what the equivalent figures were in 2002; and what he expects them to be in 2012. [154091]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the total number of apprenticeship starts in 2001-02 and 2005-06, and the latest information for 2006-07.

	Apprenticeship starts	*Advanced apprenticeship starts*
2001-02	108,300	54,000
2005-06	120,600	50,700
2006-07[1]	125,300	54,800

[1] These figures are based on latest management information. Comparable official statistics for 2006-07 will be published in the Statistical First Release "Further Education, Work-Based Learning, Train to Gain and Adult and Community Learning—Learner Numbers in England 2006/07".

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

The LSC's ILR is a census of activity capturing provision that learners enrol on and not the number of places that are available to learners. The LSG will fund what young people want to study and will work to ensure sufficient capacity is in place to meet the demand.

We want to continue the expansion of apprenticeships so that by 2013 every suitably qualified young person will be able to take up a place on the programme.

We are working with the LSC to promote apprenticeships to employers of all sizes and so increase their take-up. Many employers are already on board with 130,000 offering apprenticeships in England with over 180 apprenticeships available across more than 80 industry sectors.

We have increased the completion rate to 59 per cent. and rising—up from only 24 per cent. five years ago. We plan to increase this further in the next three years to match that of other top competitors. The Government are working with the LSC and key

partners to deliver provider incentives, foster provider collaboration, improve staff training, and develop with Sector Skills Councils guidance for individual sectors.

Diplomas will also provide clear progression routes into apprenticeships and, indeed, contain apprenticeship components within their content where specified by the Diploma Development Partnerships.

We are also building stronger links with higher education to ensure that apprentices who have the ambition and capacity to do so can enter higher education.

British National Space Centre: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary for State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the British National Space Centre. [154173]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills employs one full-time press officer and one part-time press officer who work in the British National Space Centre.

Career Development Loans

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many career development loans have been issued in the last 12 months through each of the banks involved in the scheme. [156390]

Bill Rammell: Career development loans are issued by three banks: Barclays bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland, and the Cooperative bank. Together the banks issued 13,502 loans with a total value of £71.5 million in the 12 months to 31 March 2007. I am unable to provide information for each bank as this would breach commercial confidentiality.

Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils. [154632]

Ian Pearson: On 1 April 2007, the staff, assets and liabilities of the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils, (CCLRC) transferred to the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), Since that date, CCLRC has had no employees.

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by *(a)* Skills for Care, *(b)* learndirect, *(c)* the Basic Skills Agency and *(d)* the Quality Improvement Agency for Lifelong Learning. [154676]

Mr. Lammy: Details of the employment of press officers by the organisations concerned are given as follows:

(a) Skills for Care

Has one press officer. Skills for Care is part of the alliance of organisations that forms the Skills for Care and Development Sector Skills Council.

(b) learndirect

Is a University for Industry (Ufl Ltd) initiative. Ufl employs no dedicated press officers. It has a six strong communications function responsible for handling of press enquiries with 1.5 full-time equivalent posts covering this work.

(c) The Basic Skills Agency (BSA)

Merged with the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education on 30 June (NIACE), BSA has no press officers. NIACE employs one dedicated press officer.

(d) The Quality Improvement Agency

Employs no dedicated press officers. It has a four strong communications team responsible for handling all QIA corporate communications activities including press office functions with 0.25 full-time equivalent posts covering this work.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149048]

Mr. Lammy: The amount spent on overnight accommodation for civil servants in the former Department for Education and Skills for the period July 2006 to June 2007 was £1,046,062.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department over the lifetime of the contract, expressed in constant 2007-08 prices, and discounted to present value. [155026]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* DIUS does not currently oversee any private finance initiative schemes.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151661]

Mr. Lammy: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Economic and Social Research Council: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Economic and Social Research Council. [154170]

Ian Pearson: The Economic and Social Research Council employs three press officers.

European Indicators Project

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure full participation in the European Indicators Project by official bodies and UK assessment organisations. [154219]

Bill Rammell: The European Indicators Project is going through a competitive tender process, and any official body or UK assessment organisation could have submitted a bid on their own or as part of a consortium. We would expect that whoever wins the tender would work with appropriate organisations with relevant expertise as they develop the project.

Higher Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many higher education institutions there are in England, broken down by region. [155654]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table. This is the position in August 2007.

Higher education institutions in England, by Government office region

Government office region of institution location	*Number*
North East	5
North West	15
Yorkshire and the Humber	11
East Midlands	9
West Midlands	12
East of England	9
London	41
South East	16
South West	13
Total higher education institutions in England	131

Higher Education Funding Council for England: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [154319]

Bill Rammell: The Higher Education Council Funding for England has one press officer role, which is equivalent to one FTE.

Higher Education: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many applications for university were made by students in the London borough of Bexley in 2006-07. [153901]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information on entrants to university from Bexley is given in the table. This information is for the 2005/06 academic year. Information for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in January 2008.

The Department does not hold information on applications to university by local authority area.

Entrants to UK higher education institutions from Bexley local authority academic year 2005/06

Academic year	*Number of entrants*
2005/06	2,880

Note:
Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Learning and Skills Council: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Learning and Skills Council. [154422]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) employs 11 press and communications officers in its National Office and nine Regional Offices. Some of these staff are engaged in other work in addition to their duties as press officers. The LSC has a statutory duty to encourage individuals to undergo post-16 education and training, and in 2006-07 more than 5.5 million people benefited from the learning that it funded.

Medical Research Council: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Medical Research Council. [154738]

Ian Pearson: The Medical Research Council employs two full-time press officers.

Medicine: Education

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Department or agency is responsible for the operation of the UK Clinical Aptitude Test required for admission to certain medical schools; which body let the contract to the private sector for operation of the test; and which organisation successfully tendered for the contract to operate the test. [154038]

Bill Rammell: There is no Government Department or agency responsible for the operation of the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) required for admission to certain medical schools. A group of universities with medical and dental schools came

together in 2005 to form the UKCAT Consortium, a company limited by guarantee. The Consortium let the contract for the operation of the test. The successful organisation was Pearson VUE.

Office for Fair Access: Information Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Office for Fair Access. [154655]

Bill Rammell: The Office for Fair Access has one part-time press and communications adviser. The post, which is equivalent to 0.5 FTE, encompasses the press officer role, as well as including responsibility for all of OFFA's external communications.

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) whether student visas are issued to students wishing to study at Kelvin Business School in Glasgow; [154513]

(2) what criteria must be met by educational institutions to be included on the list of applicable courses for student visas. [154514]

Bill Rammell: To help tackle abuse of the student immigration route of entry to the UK, the Home Office will only grant visas to international students who have offers of places to study at colleges on the DIUS Register of Education and Training Providers. Colleges applying to join the DIUS Register are required to supply evidence that they are providing education and training, and meeting the requirements of the Immigration Rules. The registration process is one of continual assessment.

Institutions failing to maintain the necessary standards are subject to review and removal from the Register if justified. The Borders and Immigration Agency advised us that Kelvin Business School was in breach of the Immigration Rules. The college was therefore removed from the DIUS Register on 19 July 2007.

Patent Office: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Patent Office. [154728]

Ian Pearson: The UK-Intellectual Property Office employs one full time press officer.

Qualifications

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which cross-sector standards-setting bodies are to be invited to draw up their own qualification strategies and take the lead in approving qualifications in their sector. [154188]

Bill Rammell: To date, the SSDA has approved four (4) standard-setting bodies to develop pan-sector qualifications strategies. These four are Management and Leadership (MSC), Administration (GIA), Marketing and Sales (MSSSB) and Customer Services (IGS). The only other pan-sector for which a qualifications strategy is currently being considered is health and safety. If any other standard-setting body wanted to develop its own qualifications strategies it would need to demonstrate that the occupational area they want to cover is not already covered by an existing Sector Skills Council's Sector Qualifications Strategy.

In developing their pan-sector qualifications strategies, each standard-setting body is working closely with a lead Sector Skills Council which will ensure employer needs across the board are represented and that there is no duplication with other qualifications strategies. No standard-setting bodies will be responsible for approving qualifications, this is the role of the Sector Skills Councils. All cross-sector standard-setting bodies are being 'buddied' with a lead Sector Skills Council which will approve qualifications, drawing on the expertise of the standard-setting body and liaising with other Sector Skills Councils as appropriate.

Scientific Advisory Committees: Finance

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the *(a)* total annual remuneration and *(b)* average annual remuneration payable to members of each scientific advisory committee was in the latest year for which information is available; [154359]

(2) how many members were appointed to each scientific advisory committee in the 10 years to 31 March 2007; [154360]

(3) what the cost was of each scientific advisory committee to public funds in each of the last 10 years ended 31 March. [154361]

Ian Pearson: There are 81 Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) who support the work of their sponsor Departments. Management of SACs is a matter for their sponsor Departments who are responsible for establishing the SAC's terms of reference and membership and for ensuring that they deliver value for money. There are no arrangements for collecting the data requested centrally. To do so would be disproportionately costly.

Student: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will estimate the fee income for higher education providers as referred to in the written ministerial statement by the then Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education of 23 March 2005, *Official Report*, columns 71-2WS, on student finance. [154781]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the Question from the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 594W, on student fees and charges.

Students: Loans

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints were made about late student loan payments to students in 2006-07. [153900]

Bill Rammell: In the academic year 2006-07 the Student Loans Company responded to 189 complaints about loan payment delay.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints have been received from graduates against the Student Loans Company in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [156588]

Bill Rammell: The number of complaints received specifically from graduates is not available. The total number of new complaints registered by the Student Loans Company from all sources, including customers prior to and after graduation, and third parties, is as follows:

	Number
April 2004 to March 2005	1,417
April 2005 to March 2006	1,451
April 2006 to March 2007	1,818
April 2007 to date	933

The aforementioned figures represent less than 0.05 per cent. of the SLC's customer base.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Abuse

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the adequacy of the maximum penalty for the neglect of and cruelty to animals. [154376]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans to review the current penalty for the offence of animal cruelty contained in the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which came into force in Wales on 27 March 2007 and in England on 6 April 2007.

The Act increased the maximum penalty for an offence of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal from £5,000 to a fine of £20,000, or a maximum term of imprisonment of six months, or both. The Act also introduced the new offence of failing to ensure the welfare of animals, which carries a penalty of up to six months' imprisonment, or a fine of up to £5,000, or both. I am satisfied that these sentences are proportionate and in line with those provided for in comparable legislation.

Biodiversity

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to monitor the effectiveness of the Environmental Stewardship schemes in rebuilding biodiversity apart from assessing the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. [154544]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA and Natural England are spending about £1.5 million a year to monitor and evaluate how effectively the full range of agri-environment scheme objectives is being delivered; including biodiversity, landscape, the historic environment and access.

British Waterways: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by British Waterways. [154133]

Jonathan Shaw: British Waterways employs two full-time press officers. There are a further 10 other staff whose job description includes liaison with the media.

Carbon Emissions

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the estimated total level of carbon emissions in the UK was in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; [156211]

(2) what the level of carbon emissions in the EU was in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [156713]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the estimated total level of carbon dioxide emissions for the UK and the EU, 2004-06.

	UK	*EU (27 member states)*
2004	554.6	3,858
2005	554.2	3,815
2006	560.6	n/a

Figures are million tonnes of net carbon dioxide emissions (emissions minus removals).

Emissions are presented as carbon dioxide equivalents in line with international standards for reporting and carbon trading. To compute the carbon equivalent of the emission of carbon dioxide, divide by 44/12.

The figures shown do not include any adjustment for the effect of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EUETS), which was introduced in 2005.

The figures shown for the UK for 2006 are provisional. EU emissions figures for 2006 will be published in January 2008.

Carbon Emissions: Televisions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost of and *(b)* volume of carbon dioxide emissions produced by the energy consumption of televisions in use in the UK which possess a screen blanking feature. [153967]

Joan Ruddock: No information is available about the number of televisions in use in the UK which have a screen blanking facility (which allows the selected channel to be received in audio only). Therefore, it is not possible to make an estimate of the cost or volume of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from use of these appliances.

Climate Change

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to promote the prevention of deforestation *(a)* in England and *(b)* globally as a means of combating climate change; and if he will make a statement. [155652]

Mr. Woolas: Tree felling in England is controlled by the Felling Regulations, which are administered by the Forestry Commission. Deforestation is also subject to the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999. Permission is not normally granted for deforestation unless it is for the recreation of priority open habitats, which have been lost due to planting with trees; often non-native conifers.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, global emissions from deforestation are already taken into account by developed countries in meeting their emissions reduction commitments. The UK and other European Union (EU) member states are negotiating on how to include emissions from deforestation from developing countries in future climate change agreements, on a voluntary basis.

This process is also supported by UK and EU action to tackle illegal logging and improve sustainable timber procurement, working with international partners including producer and consumer countries. Reducing emissions from deforestation is a key aim of the Environmental Transformation Fund announced in the 2007 Budget. The UK has already announced that £50 million from this Fund will go towards reducing deforestation in the Congo Basin, by promoting sustainable forestry.

Coastal Areas: Access

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of UK coastline are not accessible to *(a)* walkers and *(b)* climbers. [156687]

Jonathan Shaw: Natural England's report to the Government on coastal access in February 2007 estimated that nationally 70 per cent. of the English coast has some access for walkers by right or other recognised provision; for example on public rights of way, open country under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, national trails or National Trust land. However, these existing rights and provisions for access within the 70 per cent. often fail to join up in a way that gives continuous access around the coast.

Natural England's estimate is that at least 30 per cent. of the English coast has no legal or other recognised access at all. This varies between individual regions.

Natural England carried out some work on issues related to climbing, however no detailed information on the amount of English coast not accessible to climbers has been collected.

The provision of access in Scotland and Wales is a matter respectively for the Scottish and Welsh Assembly Governments.

Countryside Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by the Countryside Agency. [154555]

Jonathan Shaw: The Countryside Agency employed two media and parliamentary officers (nearest equivalent) until it was dissolved by Act of Parliament (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) on 30 September 2006. The successor body created on 1 October 2006 from the merger of English Nature, the Countryside Agency and the Rural Development Service-Natural England currently employs 6 six full-time press officers.

Dartmoor

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received about access to Vixen Tor for climbers. [156686]

Jonathan Shaw: I have received no recent representations about Vixen Tor.

Deer: Forests

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received about damage caused by deer to forestry. [154543]

Joan Ruddock: My Department received a number of representations about the damage caused by deer, including forestry damage, during the consultation on a proposed Deer Regulatory Reform Order that took place last year.

Following this consultation, and in response to problems associated with deer damage, the Regulatory Reform (Deer) (England and Wales) Order SI 2007/2183 was made on 25 July 2007. The Order, which comes into force on 1 October 2007, amends the Deer Act 1991 to increase the number of management options available to land managers so that they are better equipped to mitigate the damage caused by deer.

Domestic Wastes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made by *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* his Department on the level of burning of domestic waste by households in England. [153976]

Joan Ruddock: No specific assessment has been made by my Department or the Environment Agency on the level of burning of domestic waste by households in England.

Complaints about statutory smoke nuisance from domestic bonfires, or the burning of other materials, are made at the local authority level. Statistics are not held centrally by my Department.

DEFRA carried out research into emissions of dioxins from the burning of domestic waste in 2006. The review recommended that further work should be done to establish what practical measures could be taken to reduce dioxin emissions from bonfires and domestic combustion and, consequently, exposure to dioxins. Further work in estimating dioxin emissions from domestic burning is due to start in October 2007.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding the waste and resource action programme provided to each local authority in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [153994]

Joan Ruddock: Any funding allocated to local authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Domestic Wastes: Recycling

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on the recycling rates of local authorities of introducing an alternate weekly bin collection scheme. [154118]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has not commissioned or evaluated research into the effects on recycling performance of local authority decisions to move away from weekly collections of residual waste. However, of the top 20 highest recycling local authorities in England in 2005-06, 19 were operating an alternate weekly collection scheme for residual waste.

Recent research into kerbside systems in Scotland, by Remade Scotland[1], reported that the factors influencing high recovery rates for dry recyclate collections were found to be collection frequency, collection capacity, number of materials collected, and collection frequency of residual waste. One of the findings of the report was that dry recyclate schemes operated in conjunction with a fortnightly residual waste collection produced 65 per cent higher recovery rates than those associated with a weekly residual collection.

[1] http://www.remade.org.uk/documents/reports/Kerbside%20Collection%20-20Factors%20for%20Success_14112Q2570.pdf

Energy: Conservation

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Energy Efficiency Commitment will include ring-fenced funding to assist hard to reach rural households. [156029]

Mr. Woolas: The Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) is an obligation on electricity and gas suppliers in Britain to promote and deliver improvements in energy efficiency in households.

While it does not have a specific fuel poverty objective, the EEC does require suppliers to direct 50 per cent. of energy savings towards a priority group of low-income customers. Energy suppliers are free to find the most cost-effective ways to meet their obligations.

DEFRA held a statutory consultation on the third phase of EEC (to be renamed the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) over the summer. Final proposals for the relevant legislation are expected to be put to Parliament this winter.

The consultation proposals suggested new flexibilities in the way that energy suppliers could meet their priority group obligations, encouraging them to work with customers in particularly hard to treat houses, such as those off the gas grid or with solid walls.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to provide energy efficiency measures suitable for rural consumers in hard to heat homes that do not respond to traditional energy efficiency measures; [156366]

(2) what *(a)* steps his Department is taking and *(b)* advice and support is available to encourage rural consumers to become more energy efficient. [156367]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are committed to improving the energy efficiency of homes across England in both rural and urban areas.

Our fuel poverty policies also aim to improve the energy efficiency of homes of the fuel poor. For those eligible clients, including rural customers who do not have access to mains gas, Warm Front has looked to widen the support it can offer by considering alternative (often low carbon) technologies for inclusion within the scheme. Further pilot schemes are now being instigated to test other technology for Warm Front suitability, including solar thermal and air source heat pumps.

The Warm Front scheme not only offers the installation of heating systems and insulation for eligible households, but also provides advice on improving the efficiency of the dwelling. Eaga Plc, the Warm Front scheme manager, has worked in conjunction with other organisations such as Age Concern, Farm Crisis Network and the Pension Service in rural communities across England to promote energy efficiency and other key support services.

We continue to fund the Energy Saving Trust, which provides information and advice to individuals and householders, including rural households. We have launched the Act on CO_2 brand, including an advertising campaign and on-line carbon calculator to raise awareness of the link between personal behaviour and climate change.

English Nature: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by English Nature. [154145]

Jonathan Shaw: English Nature employed four full-time press officers. In October 2006, English Nature merged with part of the Countryside Agency (which employed two full-time press officers) and part of the Rural Development Service (which was covered

by DEFRA's press officers) to form Natural England. The number of press officers employed by Natural England is six.

Environment Agency: Flood Control

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration is being given to making changes to the Environment Agency's budget in the light of this summer's floods. [156182]

Mr. Woolas: My Department's formal Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 is expected to be announced later this month. This will be followed by the Department's own financial allocation process, during which the Environment Agency's budget will be determined. This process will be based on careful prioritisation across the Department and all its sponsored bodies. The Secretary of State has already announced an overall increase of £200 million to £800 million in 2010-11 for Government spending on flood and coastal erosion risk management. Allocations between operating authorities will be confirmed following the medium term planning exercise for capital projects later this year.

Environment Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by the Environment Agency. [154140]

Mr. Woolas: The information that we have from the Environment Agency is that it currently employs 24 press officers across eight regions. They maintain a 24 hour service providing media information in the event of an environmental incident.

Environment Agency: Thames Valley

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been allocated for maintenance to the Environment Agency's Thames Valley West region in each of the last three years. [156548]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's maintenance expenditure for the West Area of Thames Region in each of the last three years is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	3.76
2006-07	3.80
2007-08	4.33

Environment Protection

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the current specific heads of expenditure are for maintenance work carried out by the Environment Agency; what proportion is being spent on *(a)* dredging, *(b)* weeding and *(c)* other environmental measures in 2007-08; and if he will list the measures. [154112]

Mr. Woolas: The current Environment Agency headings for flood risk management maintenance expenditure include channel maintenance, structure maintenance, defence maintenance, operation, MEICA (mechanical, electrical, instrumentation, control and automation), buildings and ground maintenance, incident response, and non-recurring maintenance.

In 2006-07, the proportion of maintenance expenditure on each of the following headings was as follows:

	Percentage
Dredging	3.8
Aquatic weed removal	10.2
Grass cutting, tree removal and pollarding	6.6

Flood Control

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of the Environment Agency is for handling river surges following heavy rainfall; and if he will make a statement. [153848]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency uses the latest technologies to monitor rainfall, river levels and sea conditions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Once potential flooding is detected, flood warnings are issued to people and organisations in the areas at risk.

During flood events, the Environment Agency attends Gold and Silver Commands to advise on the current and forecast flooding situation. They participate in the co-ordinated response to major incidents along with the emergency services, local authorities and other bodies.

After flooding has subsided, the agency undertakes reviews of the event. These include mapping the depth and extent the water reached to improve flood risk mapping, flood forecasting and responses to town and country planning proposals. Repairs are carried out on the agency's assets and blockages that might increase the risk of flooding are removed. Drop-in centres are held for the public to share their experience and obtain advice.

The agency is investing some £436 million this year in the maintenance and improvement of river flood management measures which reduce the risks from high flood levels.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of flood defences supervised by the Environment Agency and owned by third parties were classed as in good or better condition in April 2007. [153849]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency monitors the condition of those flood defence assets on Main River and the coast that are maintained by third parties.

The proportion (by length) of flood defences such as raised walls and embankments, maintained by third parties, that were in good or better condition in April 2007 was 46 per cent., with a further 49 per cent. in fair condition.

The proportion (by number) of flood defence structures, such as sluices and outfalls, maintained by third parties, that were in good or better condition in April 2007 was 59 per cent., with a further 33 per cent. in fair condition.

These assessments are based on visual inspections.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who is responsible for surface water drainage in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England. [154109]

Mr. Woolas: This is a devolved issue, and in Scotland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD).

In England, the responsibility for managing surface water drainage is shared by several different authorities. The Environment Agency has a general supervisory duty over all matters relating to flood management and permissive powers to manage flood risk from main rivers and the sea. Local authorities are responsible for surface drainage from roads and public spaces, and the operation of highway drains; they also have permissive land drainage responsibilities for non-main rivers. Water and sewerage companies have a statutory duty to ensure the effective drainage of premises in their area, including any piped surface water arising from them. Internal drainage boards have permissive powers to undertake work to secure drainage and water level management within their districts, which cover 10 per cent. of the country's land area (mostly rural areas currently). The Highways Agency covers drainage from trunk roads.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria he will use when deciding how to spend his Department's additional budget for flood defences for 2010-11; whether the money will apply to planned projects or additional projects; and how the money will be shared between capital expenditure and maintenance expenditure. [154111]

Mr. Woolas: Subject to the Department's formal comprehensive spending review settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11, allocations between operating authorities will be confirmed following the medium-term planning exercise for capital projects later this year using the prioritisation process.

At any one time, there are numerous projects at a variety of stages of development and the additional funding announced will be used to bring forward those schemes which address the highest risk from flooding and coastal erosion.

DEFRA does not fund maintenance expenditure by local authorities or internal drainage boards. While DEFRA funds the majority of the overall flood risk management activity of the Environment Agency, we look to them to decide the most appropriate balance between capital expenditure and maintaining existing defences.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency expects to publish amendments to its flood risk maps available to the public on their website based on data collected from events since May 2007. [155675]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency expects to have reviewed the data from the summer floods and incorporated any amendments to its flood map on the internet by the end of January 2008.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals he has to extend the national guidance on managing flood risk. [156181]

Mr. Woolas: The Government continue to work closely with the Environment Agency, other delivery partners and stakeholders, to ensure that any guidance on managing flood risk is fit for purpose. Our "Making Space for Water" strategy is looking at a number of areas where guidance could be refined, in particular for appraisal of flood defence schemes.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are being considered to create, manage and improve existing flood plans, drainage and ditches systems to act as natural flood defences for future flood protection. [156183]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency exercises general supervision over all matters relating to flood defence and is the principle flood risk management operating authority in England. Local authorities and internal drainage boards also have permissive powers to manage flood risk and drainage in certain areas. All operating authorities are responsible for considering appropriate measures to manage flood risk in their areas of responsibility in line with their own operational guidance and DEFRA's policy guidance. DEFRA guidance encourages operating authorities to work with natural processes where possible, and to consider the benefits of improving the storage capacity of flood plains and ditch systems where this is a viable means of managing flood risk.

The Environment Agency also advises local planning authorities on the appropriateness and impacts of development in areas of flood risk with a view to making sure that the capacity of the functional flood plain to reduce risks is given appropriate consideration in land use planning.

Flood Control: Agriculture

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance is being given to farmers on *(a)* contour ploughing and *(b)* grass and natural planting along river banks to help manage flood waters in high risk areas. [156184]

Mr. Woolas: A review of the impacts of land use and management on flood generation has been carried out through the joint DEFRA/Environment Agency research project FD2114 (2004). This identified a number of measures that can help to mitigate localised flooding by delaying run-off; including cultivation

techniques such as contour ploughing and land management measures such as the use of grass buffer strips.

The Environment Agency also provides guidance on the use of contour ploughing to reduce run-off and erosion through its Best Farming Practice booklet (revised in 2003).

As part of DEFRA's "Making Space for Water" strategy, two projects are examining the role that rural land use and land management can play in managing flood risk at the farm and catchment scale. These projects will deliver recommendations in 2008 and inform future advice to farmers and farming representatives.

Flood Control: Berkshire

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what capital projects there are in the Environment Agency's forward programme to alleviate flooding along the River Loddon in Berkshire. [153846]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's Capital Programme includes the development of a flood risk management strategy for the River Loddon catchment. This is due to start in 2008 or 2009.

The decision to progress any specific options identified in the strategy will depend on their relative priority, when compared to other projects nationally, and the availability of funding.

Flood Control: Coastal Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the current estimate is of the coastal surge risk over the next four years; and how this estimate will be kept under review. [154110]

Mr. Woolas: The current estimate of surge risk is linked to the estimate of storminess over the next four years. Analysis of the weather over the last 50 years has shown a trend for strengthening winds in the Atlantic with wide yearly variability.

However, as the drivers for storm surge events are directly weather related, it is not possible to forecast their occurrence with any certainty more than 48 hours in advance.

The Environment Agency now oversee the Storm Tide Forecasting Service, the tide gauge network, which forecasts and measures surge events, with "Wavenet", which measures wave size and strength. These services are provided to the agency to support their short-term forecasting in partnership with the Met Office, Proudman Oceonographic Laboratory and the Government scientists at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Environment Agency to publish guidance to landowners on the maintenance of sea defences. [154415]

Mr. Woolas: Information for owners and occupiers of land adjacent to sea defences in England is available from the Environment Agency's website at:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/maintenance_1830292.pdf

I have also arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House. The Environment Agency has also produced a leaflet summarising the landowner policy options. This is currently being printed and should be available in all the Environment Agency's area offices by the end of October.

Flood Control: Essex

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Environment Agency to publish the *(a)* Blackwater and Colne Estuary Management Plan and *(b)* Crouch and Roach Estuary Management Plan. [154414]

Mr. Woolas: Subject to approval, the Environment Agency expects to publish the Blackwater and Colne Estuary Strategy in the summer of 2009.

The Agency submitted the Roach and Crouch Estuary Strategy to DEFRA in 2006. This was acknowledged, although not formally approved, in May 2007 as representing the right long term approach and "framework for action" for both these estuaries.

The Strategy is a public document and has been approved by the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood Defence Committee and the Environment Agency Board. The Agency is progressing work on the ground in accordance with the Roach and Crouch Strategy and will bring the Strategy in line with the new DEFRA guidance when it is next reviewed in four years time.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the condition of sea defences in Maldon district. [154416]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England, funds most of the Environment Agency's flood related work and grant aids individual capital improvement projects undertaken by local authorities and internal drainage boards. The programme to manage risk is driven by these operating authorities; DEFRA does not carry out works, nor direct the authorities on which specific projects to undertake.

The sea defences in Maldon district are inspected annually by the Environment Agency. The last inspection was in late September and October 2006. This year's inspections will begin shortly. The findings are used to plan and prioritise refurbishment work for future years.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many properties in *(a)* Maldon district and *(b)* Chelmsford borough are located in areas at one in 200 year risk of flooding. [154412]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency estimates that the number of properties located in areas with a one in 200 annual probability of tidal flooding is as follows:

Location	Number of properties at risk
Maldon district	3,715
Chelmsford	1,366

Flood Control: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the allocation of flood protection funds in Pickering. [156541]

Mr. Woolas: Capital funding is allocated by the Environment Agency to individual projects by applying a prioritisation system to all proposals on a national basis.

The Environment Agency will consider the priority of the proposed flood alleviation scheme for Pickering in light of the flooding this summer, however they do not expect it to change significantly.

The Environment Agency is working with Ryedale district council to look at lower cost options to reduce flood risk in Pickering, such as home owners installing flood barriers to doors. The Environment Agency is also working closely with the town council which intends to develop an emergency flood plan for the town in addition to setting up a flood warden scheme.

Flood Control: Oxford

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency has taken to divert water on to farmland adjacent to the River Thames above *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Reading to avoid urban flooding. [153847]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has not taken any such steps.

During periods of moderate flow, all the weirs on the River Thames are operated to maintain the upstream water level—or headwater level—at, or close to, the standard headwater level for each weir. Standard headwater levels are set by the Environment Agency in connection with their statutory powers as the navigation authority for the River Thames.

After periods of wet weather, Environment Agency staff progressively open the gates of each weir as far as necessary to accommodate any increase in flow while still maintaining standard headwater level.

Flood Control: West Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what additional support his Department is providing to ensure that those areas in Westmorland and Lonsdale which are most at risk do not suffer flooding; [153385]

(2) what assessment has been made of the risks to areas in Westmorland and Lonsdale that are most susceptible to flooding. [153386]

Mr. Woolas: Overall Government funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management will rise from the £600 million this year to £800 million in 2010-11. Investment is prioritised in order to reduce the threat to people and their property and deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefit, consistent with the Government's sustainable development principles.

Within the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency, the Environment Agency has an ongoing programme of prioritised maintenance works for flood defences and river systems. The Agency also has a programme of investigations and studies which aim to identify improvement works for inclusion in their medium to long-term capital investment programme.

Floods: EU Grants and Loans

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what EU funding is available in the event of emergency flooding; what applications he has made to access this funding; what criteria apply for such applications to be granted; and whether matched funding is required. [153337]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) was set up in November 2002 as a result of the extreme flooding disaster that hit Central Europe in the summer of 2002. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to the regions of Europe in dealing with an extraordinary "major" or "regional" disaster of natural causes, including severe flooding. The fund is specifically targeted at support for emergency relief action, cleaning up and getting destroyed infrastructure back into working order. Match funding is not required under the EUSF.

Before a member state can apply for support from the fund, the total amount of damages incurred in a major disaster must exceed a specific level. The EUSF's eligibility threshold for what are termed "National Level Disasters" is for all damages, insurable and uninsurable, to exceed €3 billion (2002 prices) or 0.6 per cent. of the affected country's Gross National Income (GNI), whichever is the lower, in order to qualify for assistance. The UK current estimate for total damage suffered in the June and July floods is €4 billion (£2.9 billion).

An application for support from the EUSF in respect of the June and July flooding in England, Wales and Northern Ireland was lodged with the Commission on 20 August and is currently being discussed with them. The application is not a bid as it will be for the Commission to decide whether, and if so at what level, support will be offered. Applications by other member states to the EUSF have resulted in offers of support ranging between 2.5 per cent. and 5 per cent. of the total damage suffered.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the cost of the 2007 foot and mouth outbreak to *(a)* farmers within the surveillance zone and *(b)* farmers in England. [155577]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* DEFRA has made an initial estimate of the total costs of the outbreak to the UK of £20 million, based on an

economic model that has been developed for foot and mouth disease. The full impact will depend on domestic and international restrictions that remain in place and the estimate may be revised as further data become available. Disaggregated estimates of the cost to farmers in the surveillance zones or the whole of England would be unreliable.

Forestry Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by the *(a)* Rural Payments Agency and *(b)* Forestry Commission. [154482]

Jonathan Shaw: The Rural Payments Agency employs one person who spends half of their time on press office tasks.

The Forestry Commission is a cross border body and has two press officers for GB and International issues and two press officers for England. In addition a further communications professional provides cover for holidays and weekends.

Government Laboratories

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the requests made to the Government for funding to maintain, upgrade or replace facilities at government-run laboratories for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2001, broken down by laboratory. [155575]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Government-run laboratories for which DEFRA is responsible are the Centre for Environment Aquaculture and Fisheries Science, the Central Science Laboratory and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. DEFRA agrees annual business plans and budgets with these agencies. It is then for the respective laboratory management teams to decide how to maintain, upgrade or replace facilities within that funding structure. Major capital investment projects (for example, laboratory replacement) are agreed with and funded by DEFRA.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings he has had with companies about *(a)* the polluter pays principle and *(b)* the disposal of toxic waste. [154590]

Joan Ruddock: Neither my ministerial colleagues nor I have held any recent meetings with companies specifically on the polluter pays principle or on toxic waste deposits. However, Lord Rooker and my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw), then Minister of State at DEFRA, met Environment Agency officials on 22 May 2007 concerning toxic waste disposal.

The "polluter pays" is an underpinning principle of European and domestic environmental legislation under which those responsible for pollution must pay the costs of measures necessary to eliminate that pollution, or reduce it to comply with the standards laid down by public authorities.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average amount households paid in 2006 to top up a Warm Front grant for an energy efficiency measure; and how many such households paid to top up their Warm Front grant in 2006. [156363]

Mr. Woolas: The average top up or excess paid per household in England in 2006-07 was £437.86. The number of excess payments was 30,666.

It is not possible from the data held to determine exactly who paid the excess in each case. In addition to individual householders, a number of third parties such as charities, local authorities and installers have all contributed to excess payments in 2006-07.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households in England received Warm Front grants in 2006; how many rural households in England received Warm Front grants in 2006; and what the average value of a Warm Front grant to a rural household in England was in 2006. [156364]

Mr. Woolas: A total of 253,079 households in England received Warm Front grants in 2006-07. Of these, 37,496 were classified as rural households under the criteria set out by the Office for National Statistics. The average grant to those rural households was £1,104.44.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards achieving the target laid down in section 217 of the Housing Act 2004 to ensure that by 2010 the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in England should increase by 20 per cent. compared with 2000; what progress was made in each year since the Act came into force; and if he will make a statement. [154098]

Mr. Woolas: The energy efficiency of the housing stock in England cannot be monitored directly but is modelled, using data from periodic surveys of the housing stock coupled with data on the installation of energy saving measures. Based on the delivery of measures by existing energy efficiency programmes, we expect to be on track towards the 20 per cent. target. DEFRA is currently analysing the effects of energy efficiency policies but cannot yet quantify the improvement precisely.

However, there is one positive indication that efficiency has already started to improve substantially. Against a long-term trend of rising gas consumption, household gas usage fell by over 8 per cent. over the period 2004-06. Of this, up to half could be attributed to higher prices; weather changes had little effect. Improved energy efficiency for heating, particularly higher levels of insulation (installed via the energy Efficiency Commitment) and more efficient boilers

(required by Building Regulations), is likely to have contributed to the remaining reduction of gas, the principal heating fuel. However, more detailed analysis is required to quantify this effect, and to express it in terms of improved energy efficiency.

Housing: Floods

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of developments in the last decade have been on flood plains according to the Environment Agency's records. [153975]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency does not hold records on the proportion of developments built on flood plains. However, it does record planning permissions that are granted against its advice on flood risk grounds. These are reported annually in the Agency's High Level Target HLT5 reports.

In the last reporting period (April 2005 to March 2006), 95 per cent. of cases where the Environment Agency objected on flood risk grounds were determined in line with the Agency's advice, compared with 92 per cent. in 2004-05.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects to announce access to the full flood mapping data and flood defence information for existing and planned defences; and on what basis this will be provided to insurance companies; [154107]

(2) if he will differentiate between the types of property in flood mapping data and flood defence information; and if he will publish the address point data as opposed to postcode level to insurance companies. [154108]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's flood maps provide information on flood risk from rivers and the sea. Full flood mapping data and flood defence information is already available in response to requests for access. A standardised set of information is available to insurance companies, among others, for re-use under licence, subject to the Environment Agency's standard licence terms and conditions.

The Environment Agency's Flood Map and National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA) data are also available, under licence, subject to the Environment Agency's standard licence terms and conditions. Both data sets show areas of land at risk of flooding.

The Environment Agency does not offer a product that differentiates between types of property because the requirements of different users vary, and because the chance of a property flooding is dependent on many factors including floor levels, construction methods and construction materials. Subject to the intended use of the resulting data, licensees may combine Environment Agency data with their own property type datasets to produce a dataset that meets their specific needs.

The latest National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA 2006) data are available to insurers in a format which contains both address point references and spatial and postcode formats.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of properties flooded during June and July 2007 which were built after 1945. [154392]

Mr. Woolas: No estimate has been made to date on the number of properties flooded during June and July 2007 that were built after 1945. Local authorities have provided information about the number of residential properties and businesses affected by the summer floods, however this does not include an assessment of property age.

The Environment Agency is gathering data and information as part of its review of the summer 2007 floods and this will include the categorisation by age of properties affected by flooding from rivers. This information should be available by the end of November.

As we announced in July, a full review of the flooding, its causes and subsequent management to see if any lessons need to be learned about how to manage and respond to this type of event in the future is in progress. The review is being led by an independent Chair, Sir Michael Pitt.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. [154320]

Jonathan Shaw: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee employs no full-time press officers. Press duties are shared across its communications team and, in total, are estimated to occupy less than 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts.

Landfill: Hazardous Substances

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of landfill sites which have been used for the disposal of toxic waste *(a)* in Buckingham constituency and *(b)* in the UK in the last 10 years. [154588]

Joan Ruddock: There were no landfill sites used for the disposal of hazardous waste in Buckinghamshire between 1997 and 2002. From 2002, the following four landfill sites have been used for the disposal of hazardous waste in Buckinghamshire.

i) Gerrards Cross
ii) Newton Longville
iii) Broad Lane
iv) Calvert Pit

Of these sites, only Calvert Pit and Newton Longville currently accept hazardous waste. The acceptance of hazardous wastes is controlled by the terms and conditions of the permits for the sites and within the constraints originating from the Landfill Directive. All other landfill sites accepting hazardous waste in Buckinghamshire were closed before 1997.

Data taken from the Environment Agency's waste regulatory information system and landfill capacity data show that there have been 333 landfill sites used for the disposal of hazardous waste in England and Wales in the last 10 years. Data for the whole of the UK are not collected centrally.

Lighting: China

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response the Government have made to the EU's extension for one year of duty on imports from China of energy saving light bulbs. [155165]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is opposed to the European Commission's proposal to extend anti-dumping duties on imports from China of energy saving light bulbs for a further 12 months.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter to the Under-Secretary of State (Biodiversity) dated 15 June 2007 from the hon. Member for Hyndburn on Mr. and Mrs. Riding. [153755]

Mr. Woolas: I apologise for the delay. A response was sent on Tuesday 21 August.

National Parks: South Downs

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will consider extending the period of public consultation on the boundary change designation of the South Downs National Park to include evidence relating to the Western Weald; [154037]

(2) whether consideration has been given to extending the period of public consultation on the boundary change designation of the South Downs National Park. [154065]

Jonathan Shaw: After careful consideration, I announced on 27 July that, while the formal deadline for responses remained 13 August, the Secretary of State would consider all objections and representations which were received by 24 September 2007.

The purpose of this consultation was to elicit comments on any new relevant matters which we thought were most likely to fall into one of the following categories:

(i) any implications for the Designation Order (as varied by the Variation Order) arising directly as a result of revised National Parks legislation—amendments to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 made by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, sections 59 and 99;

(ii) any implications for the Designation Order (as varied by the Variation Order) arising directly as a result of the High Court and Court of Appeal Judgments on the challenge by 'Meyrick Estate Management Ltd.' relating to the New Forest National Park;

(iii) the possible alternative boundary line from north of Petersfield running east across to Pulborough;

(iv) possible additional areas recommended for inclusion within the proposed South Downs National Park.

Ofwat: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by Ofwat. [154425]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales.

It employs two full-time press officers.

Radioactive Wastes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites in the United Kingdom are authorised under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 to dispose of *(a)* low level and *(b)* very low level radioactive waste. [156449]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency authorises the accumulation and disposal of radioactive wastes under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993. According to national data, in England and Wales there are some 535 waste producing sites that are authorised to dispose of low level radioactive waste and some 560 waste producing sites that are authorised to dispose of very low level radioactive wastes. Some waste producing sites will hold authorisations for both low level and very low level radioactive waste disposal.

Recycling: Directories

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of printed telephone directories *(a)* delivered and *(b)* recycled in the last 12 months; and what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of printed telephone directories. [154001]

Joan Ruddock: No estimate has been made by my Department on the number of printed telephone directories delivered or recycled or a specific assessment made of their environmental impact.

Telephone directories are recycled every year, most often into card and corrugated board, loft insulation, packaging materials, jiffy bags, egg boxes, animal bedding and newsprint.

Paper has been identified as a material where reduced waste and greater recycling can yield significant environmental benefits. The Government have already finalised voluntary producer responsibility agreements which will encourage, in particular, increased recycling of newspapers, magazines and direct mail with the Newspaper Publishers Association, the Periodical Publishers Association and the Direct Marketing Association respectively.

As they explore the scope for the recycling and recovery of waste paper, the Government will also be looking to other sectors of the paper industry to establish similar agreements or incorporate them into the development of the existing agreements. These

would cover office paper, free newspapers, catalogues and directories and possibly other products as well.

Recycling: Packaging

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to increase the rate of recycling of packaging. [154117]

Joan Ruddock: Two sets of Regulations in the UK, the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 and the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended) have already increased the levels of recovery and recycling across all packaging materials and are driving down the sizing and weight of packaged items. Packaging recycling has doubled since 1997 and statutory binding targets will ensure further improvements.

The current UK targets are as shown in the following table, but are subject to change, due to an upcoming consultation.

	EU target (percentage)	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Paper target	60	67.5	68	68.5
Glass target	60	73.5	74	74.5
Aluminium target	—	32.5	33	33.5
Steel target	—	58.5	59	59.5
Metals	50	—	—	—
Plastic target	22.5	24.5	25	25.5
Wood target	15	20.5	21	21.5
Recovery target	60	68	69	70

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), which is partly funded by DEFRA, is responsible for delivering greater material efficiency, including increasing recycling rates. Its work on packaging waste interlinks with many aspects of recycling, such as working with local authorities to advise on recycling facilities and overcome barriers to recycling. WRAP also has a behavioural change programme which targets consumer recycling and explains why this is important.

WRAP is working with the retail industry to increase the recycling content of packaging and is targeting the supply chain through the voluntary 'Courtauld Commitment' agreement. Through its business growth and manufacturing programmes, WRAP is also working to ensure that the necessary facilities are in place in order to increase the capacity and capability of recycling and to increase the use of recycled materials in manufacturing.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. [154177]

Joan Ruddock: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has one press officer and a public relations manager and press assistant who also work with the media. This team of three is managed by a head of corporate communications with a wider brief. Wakehurst Place, home of the Millennium Seed Bank, has one press and marketing officer.

Vandalism

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the total cost of graffiti to the UK economy in a year. [153958]

Jonathan Shaw: No estimate has been made of the cost to the UK economy of graffiti. Local authorities have powers to remove graffiti and can recover the costs of doing so on surfaces that are in or on the street.

Waste Management

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to work with the Department of Communities and Local Government on the implementation of the Waste Strategy for England 2007; and whether he will integrate *(a)* small, *(b)* medium and *(c)* large-scale biological treatment facilities within this implementation. [154153]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has established a Waste Strategy Board to drive forward and monitor delivery of the Waste Strategy for England 2007 across Government. The board includes representatives from the other Government Departments with a key interest in waste, including Communities and Local Government (CLG), and we will be working closely with these Departments in implementing the strategy.

My Department is also working with CLG to take forward specific aspects of the strategy, including planning for waste infrastructure, pollution control, waste aspects of the local government performance framework, and proposals to remove the ban on local authorities using financial incentives to increase recycling by households.

The strategy sets out the measures that the Government have put in place to secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill. It remains vital that regional spatial strategies and local development documents look forward and make adequate provision for the appropriate types and scales of infrastructure and waste treatment facilities needed, including biological treatment plants. It is also important for specific, suitable sites to be identified in plans.

Water: Emergencies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to reassess the provision of water supplies in civil emergencies; [154363]

(2) what assessment he has made of Severn Trent's capacity with regard to *(a)* water tankers and *(b)* water bowsers and their replenishment during crises; [154369]

(3) what assessment he has made of the capacity of Severn Trent to cope with the recent flooding in Gloucestershire; [154370]

(4) what requests for assistance his Department received from *(a)* Severn Trent and *(b)* other water companies to manage water supplies in the recent floods in Gloucestershire and the surrounding area; [154371]

(5) what discussions he has had with Severn Trent on civil emergencies. [154372]

Mr. Woolas: There are a number of reviews being carried out by different organisations into the flooding that occurred in the summer. One of these is a wide-ranging and thorough review that has been established by the Government to identify any lessons to be learned for the way that we manage and respond to flooding events such as those experienced recently. This review will cover issues such as loss of drinking water supplies. It is being led by an independent chair, Sir Michael Pitt. We are aiming to publish initial findings by the end of the year and subsequently a formal report. A call for evidence is currently lodged on the Cabinet Office and UK Resilience websites. Until these reviews have been completed and the recommendations considered, it would not be right to comment or speculate at this stage on any actions that might need to be taken.

However, I can confirm that during the flooding of Gloucester and the surrounding area, and following a specific request from the Severn Trent Water, my Department was able to facilitate the use of further road tankers from private companies to assist in the filling of the water bowsers.

Water: Shortages

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which water companies had a hose pipe ban in force on *(a)* 26 July and *(b)* 8 October. [154333]

Mr. Woolas: On 26 July 2006, the following water companies had hosepipe bans in force in some or all of their supply areas: Thames Water, Southern Water, Mid Kent Water, South East Water, Three Valleys Water, Sutton and East Surrey Water, Folkestone and Dover Water and Cholderton and District Water.

All of these bans remained in force on 8 October 2006 with the exception of that for Folkestone and Dover Water. No hosepipe bans were in force on 26 July 2007 and there are none in force at present.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer Benefits

13. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to improve the level of benefits for carers. [156115]

Mrs. McGuire: We fully recognise the valuable contribution made by all carers. From this month, we have further raised the carer's allowance weekly earnings limit from £87 to £95, allowing carers to earn more before their benefit is affected.

The Government are working with carer's organisations and others to review our National Carers Strategy. In this review we are examining carer's benefits in depth. We plan to publish the review's conclusions in March 2008.

Child Maintenance

14. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time taken to agree an award of child support was over the last 12 months. [156117]

Mr. Plaskitt: The agency is currently clearing 72 per cent. of applications within 12 weeks. This is compared with just 53 per cent in March 2006, before implementation of the operational improvement plan.

I might add that 83 per cent. are cleared within the 26-week target against just 67 per cent. before the operational improvement plan.

For all applications cleared in June 2007, the average length of time taken to agree an award of child support was 91 days from first contact to clearance. It was 143 days before the operational improvement plan.

Worklessness

15. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of trends in the level of worklessness among under 25 year olds since 1997. [156118]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State gave earlier to the hon. Members for Lichfield (Michael Fabricant) and for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb).

Social Fund

16. **Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the operation of the social fund. [156119]

Mr. Plaskitt: In 2006-07 Jobcentre Plus paid:

more than 270,000 Community Care Grants
nearly 1.3 million Budgeting Loans
over 1 million Crisis Loans
over 40,000 Funeral Payments
over 235,000 Sure Start Maternity Grants

all with a total value of £1 billion.

These payments helped around 2 million people to cope with one off expenses that otherwise they would not have been able to afford.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of establishing a separate credit bank social fund for low earners; and if he will make a statement. [154092]

Mr. Plaskitt: As part of its financial inclusion strategy, the Government are committed to increasing the availability of affordable forms of credit for those who find it difficult to access mainstream lenders such

as banks. Potential for reform of the Social Fund will be considered in this context.

The £42 million Growth Fund, which is a key element of our strategy, is doing much to increase the availability of affordable credit, having made in excess of 30,000 loans to financially excluded people in its first few months, with many thousands more excluded people to be helped as expansion of this sustainable service continues. In parallel with this we are working closely with the credit union movement and investing £1 million of the Growth Fund to test ways in which the recently announced Transaction Banking Service can be introduced to enable even greater service through credit unions for those who find it difficult to access mainstream financial services.

Furthermore, as announced in Financial Inclusion: the way forward, the Government has established a working group, involving the banking industry and the Financial Inclusion Taskforce, to consider ways in which the capacity and coverage of third sector lenders can be increased nationwide, through the support of the banking sector and the Government.

Crisis Loans

17. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the adequacy of telephone-based systems for the delivery of crisis loans. [156120]

Mr. Plaskitt: The modernisation of our telephone service has greatly improved access to crisis loans. It has resulted in a more efficient service for our customers, and provided more flexibility to meet call demand.

Council Tax Benefit

18. **Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of aligning starting thresholds for council tax benefit with those for income tax. [156121]

Mr. Plaskitt: This was one of the recommendations in the recent report from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee and we will publish our formal response shortly.

Child Poverty

19. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest assessment is of the trend in levels of child poverty. [156122]

Caroline Flint: There have been a number of significant reforms to our tax and benefit system. From April 2009, in real terms, households with children will be, on average, £1,800 per year better off, while those in the poorest fifth of the population will be, on average £4,000 a year better off than in 1997.

Access to Work Programme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are used to measure the effectiveness of the access to work programme. [154672]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are several criteria used to measure the effectiveness of access to work. The level of expenditure and the number of people helped into work by the scheme are the two key criteria.

Child Support Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what period of time the Child Support Agency Midlands Business Unit retains recordings of telephone calls from members of the public. [154642]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Joures, dated 8 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what period of time the Child Support Agency Midlands Business Unit retains recordings of telephone calls from members of the public. [154642]

Prior to 26 March 2007, telephone calls made to the Child Support Agency were recorded and retained for 3 weeks. From that date, voice recording functionality was enhanced to allow telephone calls to be retained for 14 months. This functionality applies to any call made through the Agency's call routing system. Certain calls, for example where a client calls a caseworker's number directly, are not recorded.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will discuss with ministerial colleagues steps to facilitate easier access to Judicial Review for parents owed money via the Child Support Agency. [154042]

Mr. Plaskitt: A Judicial Review claim may be issued in the administrative court by any person with sufficient interest in the matter to which the application for Judicial Review relates.

Matters relating to court proceedings are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice who advise that those applying for a Judicial Review are expected to exhaust whatever alternative remedies are available to them under the particular process they are concerned about.

The Child Support Agency has already, through the Operational Improvement Plan made considerable improvements in client service over the last year with new scheme uncleared applications at their lowest level since January 2004 and 72 per cent. of new cases cleared within 12 weeks. These improved service levels, complemented by a thorough and tested appeals process ensure clients have access to the necessary support and advice in all their dealings with the Agency. It is therefore more appropriate to continue to

improve client service, through the Operational Improvement Plan enabling the Child Support Agency to deliver more money to more children, than to place additional and unnecessary burdens on our courts.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to *(a)* register private agreements for child maintenance and *(b)* set standards, monitor and enforce such private registration; and if he will make a statement. [154610]

Caroline Flint: We believe that the Commission should form a view as to whether it should run a register, potentially on a test basis first, to assess take-up, its cost effectiveness and the relative stability of the agreements reached.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the new maintenance assessment under the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is designed to compensate for the costs of raising children; how the formula has been derived; and if he will make a statement. [154620]

Mr. Plaskitt: The principles of the basic maintenance formula under the Commission will be based on the structure of the formula introduced in 2003 with percentage rates based on the non-resident parent's income and number of qualifying children.

We are satisfied that the percentage rates strike the right balance between the needs of the child and the other expenses that non-resident parents have to meet.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any of the main objectives of the planned Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be to collect the arrears of child maintenance owed to parents with care; and if he will make a statement. [154623]

Caroline Flint: The Commission's main objective is to maximise the number of effective maintenance arrangements in place.

This main objective is supported by two subsidiary objectives. The first is to encourage and support voluntary maintenance arrangements. The second is to support the making of applications to the statutory maintenance service and to secure compliance with parental obligations under the Child Support Act when this is appropriate.

Securing compliance with parental obligations includes securing payment of any arrears owed under the Child Support Act.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward plans to allow the courts to make child maintenance orders without the agreement of both parents where the courts are dealing with other financial aspects of divorce or separation; and if he will make a statement. [154626]

Caroline Flint: The Government have no plans to allow courts to impose child maintenance orders on parents. We want to promote a collaborative process that encourages parents to reach agreement about maintenance wherever possible. Where parents are unable to agree they may apply to the Child Support Agency for a maintenance calculation.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people in families with children live in households with below 40 per cent. of median income. [153426]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce a system in his Department for the collection of information on child poverty at county level. [154766]

Mr. Plaskitt: The official measure of child poverty is derived from an annual survey, the Family Resources Survey. While this gives an accurate picture of the national position, the survey sample is too small to allow for disaggregation to county level. However, I recognise the importance of measuring child poverty at a more local level and have asked analysts in my Department to investigate the feasibility of producing an alternative measure that will give an indication of progress locally.

Crisis Loans: Telephone Services

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether the Government plan to increase the number of staff manning the Jobcentre Crisis Loan helpline; and if he will make a statement; [154181].

(2) what the average time was that a caller to the Jobcentre Crisis Loan helpline had to wait before the call was answered in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [154182]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked Lesley Strathie to reply to your questions asking whether the Government plans to increase the number of staff manning the Jobcentre Crisis Loan helpline; and what the average time was that a caller to the Jobcentre Crisis Loan helpline had to wait before the call was answered in the latest period for which figure are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

Average call waiting times are not available as we do not have a national Crisis Loan helpline. Telephone calls for Crisis Loans are taken at Benefit Delivery Centres around the country using separate 0800 numbers. Centralisation of Benefit Delivery is not yet complete. In areas where Social Fund Benefit Delivery Centres have yet to be rolled out customers may call their local office on a local number.

To help with the increasing demand in Crisis Loan applications we have, since early July, started to re-deploy staff from the Contact Centre Directorate to handle telephone enquiries about Crisis Loans. As a result there will be an extra 500 people taking calls from customers applying for Crisis Loans.

Departments: Cabinet Committees

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Cabinet Committee meetings he has attended in the last 12 months. [154876]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* A full list of all Cabinet Committees, including their membership and terms of reference, can be found in the Library of the House. It is Government practice to place such a list in the Library approximately every six months. Previous lists contain the membership information requested. Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, including the number of meetings held and attendance, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Departments: Cornwall

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence has taken place between his Department and Cornwall county council on joint delivery of services at a local level. [154769]

Mrs. McGuire: The Pension Service and Jobcentre Plus have had and continue to have regular communication with Cornwall county council.

There has been dialogue between Pension Service Local Service staff and Cornwall county council through meetings and correspondence since January 2004. The last meeting which took place on 11 September 2007, resulted in an agreement being reached on the joint delivery of services at a local level and a pilot is scheduled to take place from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008.

Jobcentre Plus (JCP) has also had regular meetings and correspondence with Cornwall county council. The external relations managers and partnership managers of JCP Devon and Cornwall district work closely with a variety of groups and boards from Cornwall county council to achieve joint delivery of services.

The information which is available on meetings and correspondence is presented in the following tables.

Correspondence and meetings between the Pension Service Local Service and Cornwall county council since January 2004

Meetings	*Correspondence*	*Joint workshops*	*Job shadowing*	*Joint fact finding visit*
22 April 2004	14 January 2004	21 July 2005	Over several days in July 2005	22 February 2005
May 2004	16 September 2004	6 December 2005	23 February 2007	0
21 September 2004	6 February 2006	0	0	0
October 2004	15 February 2006	0	0	0
6 January 2005	28 June 2006	0	0	0
4 May 2005	5 July 2006	0	0	0
4 July 2005	21 July 2006	0	0	0
8 August 2005	29 June 2007	0	0	0
16 December 2005	6 August 2007	0	0	0
22 September 2006	0	0	0	0
20 November 2006	0	0	0	0
2 March 2007	0	0	0	0
11 September 2007	0	0	0	0

Notes:
1. It has not been possible to identify every contact made.
2. Listed are the known dates of correspondence and meetings.

Source:
Cornwall Pension Service Local Service

Correspondence and meetings between Jobcentre Plus and Cornwall county council since January 2007

Meetings	*Correspondence*
Eight meetings with local partnership managers in early 2007	0
30 April 2007	0
1 June 2007	0
13 July 2007	0
30 July 2007	0

Source:
Devon and Cornwall Jobcentre Plus.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153182]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Junior Ministers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total estimated annual cost is of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space, *(d)* administrative support and *(e)* special advisers for the new Under-Secretary of State in his Department. [154629]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested would be available only at disproportionate costs. A list of special advisors by department and pay band will be published in due course. Details of ministerial salaries are available in the House Library and at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/parliamentary/pay/ministerial/index.asp

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153178]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were employed by call centres used by his Department in each year since 1997. [152790]

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's staff were employed in call centres in each of the last 10 years. [152658]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The information available is recorded in the following table and provides the number of staff, expressed as 'full time equivalents' (FTE)[1], employed in call centres as at 1 April for each year.

[1] Many contact centre staff work part time, FTE is a means of expressing staff numbers in a consistent way (for example two staff working 0.5 x standard working hours is equivalent to one FTE).

	Jobcentre Plus[1]	*The Pension Service*[2]	*Disability and Carers Service*[3]	*Child Support Agency*	*Debt Management*
1998	—	—	108.27	—	—
1999	—	—	125.31	—	—
2000	—	—	128.84	—	—
2001	—	—	446.63	—	—
2002	—	—	459.44	—	—
2003	—	—	456.22	—	—
2004	2,118.39	—	529.25	562.36	—
2005	3,992.56	10,216	582.87	481.96	475.13
2006	6,075.73	8,566	511.95	541.75	387.37
2007	6,382.54	8,175	515.88	508.04	440.63

[1] Jobcentre Plus information details the position at March in each year.
[2] The Pension Service operates an integrated business model, where Pension Centres perform both contact centre and claims processing functions. It is not possible to make precise allocations between the functions. Information provided includes telephony, processing, support and management.
[3] Disability and Carers information up to 20000-01 is for Benefit Enquiry Line only. Information from 2001-02 includes the Disability Helpline and Benefit Enquiry Line.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153189]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which overseas visits were undertaken by Ministers in his Department in the course of their duties in the last year; which overseas visits Ministers intend to take in the next 12 months; and what the purpose was of such visits in each case. [152599]

Mrs. McGuire: Ministers have made a number of overseas visits over the year to look at other countries' approaches to social security and welfare reform and will continue to do so where necessary. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Full information about all ministerial trips can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, all Cabinet Minister overseas visits costing in excess of £500 are published on an annual basis. The latest list was published on 25 July. Copies of the lists are available in the libraries of the House or at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/

From 2007-08 the annual list will be expanded to include a breakdown of travel by all Ministers.

Disability Rights Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press officers are employed by the Disability Rights Commission. [154561]

Mrs. McGuire: The Disability Rights Commission was dissolved on 1 October and has been subsumed within the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. Prior to its dissolution the Disability Rights Commission had seven employees involved in press office activity, four of whom were part-time.

Employment Schemes: Disabled

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with disabilities were on employment programmes in 2007; and what the Department's targets for obtaining jobs for people with disabilities was. [156508]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following tables.

Specialist disability employment programmes 2006-07

Programme	*Number of people*
Access to Work	28,500 people
New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP)	60,940 customers registered with NDDP
Work Preparation	8,100 customers started on the programme
WORKSTEP	12,800 people
Residential Training Colleges	1,140 customer starts on the programme
Remploy	10,020 disabled people supported on Workstep by Remploy

Mainstream employment programmes—participants with a disability indicator (at February 2007)

Programme	*Number of participants*
New Deal for Young People	13,650
New Deal 25+	18,330
New Deal for Lone Parents	3,720
New Deal 50+	21,360
New Deal for Partners	680
Employment Zones	6,730

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

The Department does not obtain jobs for people, but rather provides advice and support to help people

engage with the labour market. Although there are no specific targets, the Department has a Public Service Agreement to significantly increase the employment rate of disabled people and reduce the difference between their employment rate and the overall rate in the three years to March 2008.

Hard-to-Help Families

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of improving arrangements to facilitate multi-agency mentoring and follow-through for hard-to-help families with multiple problems; and if he will make a statement. [154096]

Mr. Plaskitt: Our recently published Green Paper "In work better off: next steps to full employment" (Cm: 7130) sets out proposals for improving our successful record of working in partnership with the private and voluntary sectors, other government Departments and agencies, both nationally and locally.

In addition, DWP is working with the Cabinet Office and other Departments to develop integrated services for the most disadvantaged families. The Families at Risk Review (led by the Social Exclusion Task Force) is seeking to ensure that services that work with the whole family are provided in a tailored, flexible and holistic way.

Health and Safety Executive: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press officers are employed by the Health and Safety Executive. [154135]

Mrs. McGuire: At 1 April 2007, HSE employed eight full-time equivalent press officers, one of whom was on maternity leave.

Housing Benefit

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the outcome was of his investigation of the feasibility of collecting information on the cost of housing benefit paid to households renting properties formerly owned by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [154050]

Mr. Plaskitt: Local authorities supply management information on housing benefit through a monthly claimant level data extract.

Since April 2007 this data extract should include, where applicable, the date when an individual housing benefit claimant had their tenancy transferred from a local authority property to a registered social landlord property. Only transfers occurring after 1 April 2007 will be captured through this data.

We are unable to identify where a housing benefit claimant is resident in a property that was formerly owned by the local authority if the transfer occurred prior to April 2007, or if it occurred when a different tenant was in place.

This data extract is not currently available for all local authorities and validation of this information needs to be carried out before the data can be used.

Housing Benefit: Fraud

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of housing benefit fraud have been detected and resolved using the *(a)* Benefit Fraud Inspectorate, *(b)* Housing Benefit Matching Service, *(c)* remote access terminals and *(d)* Anti-Fraud Incentive Scheme. [154765]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Benefit Fraud Inspectorate, Remote Access Terminals and the Anti-Fraud Incentive Scheme are not dedicated parts of the process of detection of individual cases of benefit fraud. Therefore the requested figures are not available.

Information from the Housing Benefit Matching Service is not available broken down separately into fraud and error.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were claiming incapacity benefit in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [156716]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants

Quarter ending	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*GB*
February 1997	5,800	12,100	198,700	2,837,100
February 1998	5,700	11,800	191,700	2,809,000
February 1999	5,500	11,200	185,700	2,740,500
February 2000	5,980	11,460	184,210	2,724,030
February 2001	6,030	11,550	188,610	2,792,030
February 2002	6,030	11,690	187,910	2,787,220
February 2003	6,020	11,570	188,790	2,818,570
February 2004	5,900	11,280	185,660	2,819,160
February 2005	5,600	10,830	180,030	2,799,870
February 2006	5,380	10,450	172,910	2,747,490
February 2007	5,210	10,160	166,790	2,704,100

Notes:
1. February 1997-February 1999 figures are uprated to WPLS figures, and rounded to the nearest 100.
2. February 2000-February 2007 figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and 100 per cent. WPLS.

Local Authorities Pensioner Forums

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what grants have been made to local

authorities to fund local pensioner forums in each of the last three years. [156273]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

New Deal Plus for Lone Parents

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions where the seven pilot schemes for the New Deal Plus for Lone Parents are taking place; in which parliamentary constituencies they are taking place; how long the pilots will last; and what criteria will be used to evaluate their effectiveness. [154670]

Caroline Flint: New deal plus for lone parents was introduced in April 2005 in North London, South East London, Bradford, Dudley and Sandwell, and Leicestershire. It was extended to Cardiff and Vale and Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders in October 2006. The current pilots, which run until March 2008, are open to eligible lone parents in non-London areas and eligible lone and couple parents in London areas.

The Child Poverty Strategy 'Working for Children', published in March 2007, announced the extension and expansion of the new deal plus pilots from April 2008 to March 2011. In pilot locations outside London, key elements of new deal plus for lone parents will be extended to eligible couple parents, and the pilots will be expanded to cover all London areas and will continue to be available to eligible lone and couple parents.

The effectiveness of the pilots is defined in terms of increased exits from benefit and increased employment outcomes compared with similar lone parents in non pilot areas. Evaluation also examines the effectiveness of delivery and impacts on the wider economy.

Early findings from the pilots were included in 'The lone parent pilots after 12 to 24 months: an impact assessment of In-Work Credit, Work Search Premium, Extended Schools Childcare, Quarterly Work Focused Interviews and New Deal Plus for Lone Parents', DWP Report 415, published in March 2007, and in 'New Deal Plus for Lone Parents qualitative evaluation' DWP Report 426, published in May 2007. Both reports are available in the Library. Qualitative findings from the Scottish and Welsh pilots, and findings from the next wave of Impact Assessments will be published next year and placed in the Library.

Details of the Parliamentary constituencies in which the new deal plus for lone parents pilots are currently operating are in the following table.

New deal for lone parent Jobcentre Plus Pilot District	*Parliamentary constituency*
North London (part of North and North East London Jobcentre Plus District)	Finchley and Golders Green
	Hendon
	Edmonton
	Enfield, North
	Hornsey and Wood Green (the new deal plus for lone parents pilots do not cover Hornsey)
	Tottenham
South East London Jobcentre Plus District	Bexleyheath and Crayford
	Erith and Thamesmead
	Old Bexley and Sidcup
	Eltham
	Greenwich and Woolwich
	Lewisham, East
	Lewisham West
	Lewisham, Deptford
Dudley and Sandwell (part of the Black Country Jobcentre Plus District)	Dudley, North
	Dudley, South
	Halesowen and Rowley Regis
	Stourbridge
	Warley
	West Bromwich, East
	West Bromwich, West
Leicestershire (part of the Leicestershire and Northampton Jobcentre Plus District)	Leicester South,
	Leicester, East
	Leicester, West
	Harborough (Market Harborough)
	Blaby
	Hinckley and Bosworth
	Loughborough
	Charnwood
	North West Leicestershire
	Rutland and Melton (the new deal plus for lone parents pilots do not cover Rutland)
Bradford (part of West Yorkshire Jobcentre Plus District)	Bradford, North
	Bradford, South
	Bradford, West
	Shipley
	Keighley
Cardiff and Vale (part of South East Wales Jobcentre District)	Vale of Glamorgan
	Cardiff, Central
	Cardiff, North
	Cardiff, South and Penarth
	Cardiff, West
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Jobcentre Plus District	Edinburgh, West
	Edinburgh, East
	Edinburgh, South West
	Edinburgh, North and Leith
	Edinburgh, South
	Livingston, Broxburn, East Calder, Mid Calder
	East Lothian, Musselburgh, Haddington

New deal for lone parent Jobcentre Plus Pilot District	*Parliamentary constituency*
	Midlothian, Loanhead, Dalkeith, Gorebridge
	Roxburgh and Selkirk, Galashields, Penicuik
	Bathgate

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of occupational pension schemes in the UK which *(a)* have completed wind-up and *(b)* are in the process of winding up; what proportion began wind-up after 2 May 1997 in each case; and what his estimate is of the number of members of such schemes. [154287]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following information was provided by the pensions regulator.

(a) The number of schemes in the UK that have wound up since 2 April 1997 is 62,814

(b(i)) The number of schemes that have commenced, but not yet completed, winding up is 8,088 with a total membership of 427,456; and

(b(ii)) The number of schemes that have been winding up since 2 May 1997 is 7,804. This is 96.5 per cent. of the schemes at (b(i)). The total membership of these schemes is 411,943. This is 96.4 per cent. of the membership at (b(i)).

Notes:

1. A wound up scheme is one which has notified the pensions regulator that it has completed winding up procedures.

2. A winding up scheme is one which has notified the pensions regulator that it has commenced winding up procedures.

3. The data supplied by the pensions regulator are current as at 3 September 2007. They come from the merger of data derived from old systems (i.e. before 6 April 2005), and have been enhanced and updated with information received via the new scheme returns—which were introduced as part of the Pensions Act 2004.

4. Total membership includes active, deferred and pensioner members.

Pension Protection Fund: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press officers are employed by the Pension Protection Fund. [154722]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 27 July 2007 the Pension Protection Fund has one press officer.

Pensions Regulator: Information Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press officers are employed by the Pensions Regulator. [154685]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 27 July 2007 the Pensions Regulator has two press officers.

Pensions: Forecasts

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the Retirement Pension Forecasting Team is no longer able to provide forecasts of additional state pensions; when the situation will be resolved; and how many people he estimates will be affected. [154879]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The computer systems used to produce state pension forecasts are being updated to reflect the new state pension rules included within the Pensions Act 2007 and therefore the Pension Service retirement pension forecasting team is temporarily unable to provide a state pension forecast to people who reach state pension age on or after 6 April 2010. We aim to have the system changes in place by autumn 2008.

People reaching state pension age after 2010 who contact the Pension Service retirement pension forecasting team will still be able to obtain personalised information including:

an indication of the current number of qualifying years and how many more are needed to get a full basic state pension under the new rules; and

details of how changes to the state pension rules may affect the individual's state pension position.

This means people can still receive the help they need to plan for their retirement, and the vast majority of customers using these transitional arrangements have been happy with the service provided.

People who reach state pension age before 6 April 2010 can continue to receive state pension forecasts from the retirement pension forecasting team. These forecasts include information on both basic and additional state pension.

Approximately half of the people who use the forecasting "on request" (either online or by phone) service are affected by the current suspension. Based on previous requests for state pension forecasts in 2005-06 we estimate the suspension will impact 300,000 individuals.

The combined pension forecasting service is also suspended until autumn 2008 and this affects approximately 4 million individuals.

In the meantime the Pension Service are working closely with their IT suppliers to explore ways in which the timetable for reflecting state pension changes in state pension forecasting systems could be advanced.

Pensioners: Overseas Residence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many pensions the UK Pension Service submitted papers to the International Pension Service in 2006; and, of these, how many people received their overseas pension entitlements within four months. [156411]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected or recorded by the Department.

Personal Injury: Compensation

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal injury claims by members of the public from local authorities were reported to his Department, in accordance with the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997, in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [153857]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table:

Personal injury claims against local authorities

Financial year of recovery	*Number of claims*
2004-05	16,204
2005-06	12,839
2006-07	9,058

Notes:
1. The figures quoted are for personal injury claims made by the public against local authorities.
2. All cases settled prior to 1 January 2005, which showed that there were no recoverable benefits due to the Secretary of State, have been archived, and are therefore not included in these figures.
Source:
Figures produced by the Compensation Recovery Unit.

Remploy: Closures

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what criteria were Remploy factories selected for closure. [156492]

Mrs. McGuire: The main selection criteria used by Remploy in proposing which of their factories should close was long-term business sustainability. The Company examined, business by business, which factories had the best opportunity to reach their commercial objectives. Finally, in each location where closure was being considered, Remploy reviewed whether they would be able to support their disabled employees in mainstream employment.

The Secretary of State will make a decision on the future of Remploy, once he receives Remploy's final proposals later this year. Until then, no Government decision will be made concerning Remploy's factories.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition his Department uses of habitual residence for the purpose of claiming benefit; and what definition is used in other European Economic Area States. [154695]

Mr. Plaskitt: Entitlement to income-related benefits requires that a person has a right to reside and be habitually resident in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland (generally known as the Common Travel Area). If a person does not have a right to reside then he or she is treated as not being habitually resident and is not entitled to those benefits. A person who has a right to reside must also show that he or she is habitually resident in the UK unless he or she falls into an exemption category, such as that for EU workers.

The term "habitual residence" is not defined in UK social security legislation but there is both domestic and EC case law on how that term should be interpreted. In order to determine whether a person is habitually resident, decision makers will, on the basis of the guidelines set out in the case law, consider a variety of factors about the person's circumstances. These include, for example, his or her attachment to and intentions in the UK; his or her reasons for coming here; and whether the person has family in the UK etc. Benefit decision-makers must be satisfied on objective grounds that a person who claims income-related benefits after arriving in the country has genuinely adopted the UK as his or her place of habitual residence.

Where other European Economic Area States use the term "habitual residence" as a condition of entitlement to benefit, the term should be used in accordance with their domestic law and EC case law.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what evaluation he has made of the abuse of accommodation address agencies by perpetrators of *(a)* benefit fraud and *(b)* other criminal activity relating to the responsibilities of his Department. [156593]

Mr. Plaskitt: No such evaluation has been made.

Social Security Benefits: Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures he has put in place to track the amount of benefits paid erroneously to illegal immigrants. [154286]

Mr. Plaskitt: Illegal immigrants are not entitled to DWP administered benefits. Rigorous checking processes are built into the benefit application systems to ensure that the gateway to the benefits system is secure.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of successful claims for state retirement pension was made *(a)* by telephone interview, *(b)* by personal interview, *(c)* by post and *(d)* online in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [156385]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is in the following table.

All state pension applications processed[1] (successful and unsuccessful) 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007

	Percentage of total applications processed
Telephone Interview	28
Personal Interview	4
Post	66
Online	2
Total	100

[1] Figures of successful applications are not recorded.
Source:
Weekly Performance data supplied by pension centres and local service system data August 2007.

State Retirement Pensions: Widowed People

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information is available to the public in the form of leaflets on the switching process between widow's pension and state retirement pension. [155752]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The switching process between widow's pension and state pension is covered in three leaflets:

"State Pension—choices available to you" (code: BR33)
"A guide to Bereavement Benefits" (code: NP45)
"A guide to State Pensions" (code: NP46).

Unemployment Benefits

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress is being made on reducing the complexity of benefits acting as a barrier to work. [156116]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are committed to removing any barriers to the smooth transition from benefits to work.

We are determined to make work pay and we have increased the minimum income that people can expect on moving into work, thereby removing barriers and improving financial incentives to work.

Winter Fuel Payments

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are used by the Pensions Service to dispatch claim forms for winter fuel allowance to people who will be aged 60 by the end of the qualifying week. [156658]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Each year the Pension Service dispatch winter fuel claim forms to customers using the following criteria:

Customers whose 60th birthday falls between the day following the previous year's winter fuel payment qualifying week, and the last day of the current year's winter fuel payment qualifying week.

Customers within the stated birth range for whom we have an address of at least two lines and a postcode, title, surname and forename, gender, national insurance number and verification level.

Customers who request a claim form

Female customers who are identified as already being in receipt of state pension are automatically entitled to a winter fuel payment and do not need to claim.

Women's National Commission: Information Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press officers are employed by the Women's National Commission. [154657]

Barbara Follett: No press officers are employed by the Women's National Commission.

Work Opportunities: Disabled People

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to improve work opportunities for disabled people. [156114]

Mrs. McGuire: We have a range of programmes designed to provide help to people with disabilities and in the year to April 2007 these programmes supported more than 50,000 people to get into or retain employment.

We are currently reviewing our employment services for disabled people and intend to consult on our proposals later in the year.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 8 October 2007

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Solicitor-General how many press officers are employed by the Crown Prosecution Service. [154139]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service employs seven press officers at its headquarters. These consist of: four information officers; two senior information officers; and one chief press officer.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner: Information Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. [154662]

Mr. Byrne: This is a matter for the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner.

Antisocial Behaviour: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued to 10 to 17-year-olds in Cambridgeshire in each year since their introduction; and how many in each year had individual support orders attached. [153766]

Mr. Coaker: The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) is given in the following table. There have been no individual support orders (ISOs) issued in Cambridgeshire up to the end of December 2005 which is the latest period for which data are available. In April this year we completed a survey of 60 areas on support available for young people on ASBOs. The headline results support anecdotal information from practitioners that where ISOs are not being made it is mostly because they are already receiving other interventions from the Youth Offending Team (YOT). The courts are obliged to consider making an ISO every time they make an ASBO on a 10 to 17-year-old and must give a reason in open court if they decide not to do so. The use of ISOs continues to be actively promoted by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and the Home Office as an aid to helping YOTs fulfil their role in tackling antisocial behaviour.

Persons aged 10 to 17: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service by area and year, April 1999[1] to December 2005

	Number
CJS area—Cambridgeshire	
April 1999 to May 2000	[1]
June to December 2000	0
2001	1
2002	2
2003	10
2004	3
2005	14
Total	30

[1] No age details available for the period April 1999 to May 2000.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* south Cambridgeshire and *(c)* east Cambridgeshire in each year since their introduction. [153770]

Mr. Coaker: The information is shown in the following table.

Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by period and where restrictions are imposed within local authority areas, up to 31 December 2005

	Cambridgeshire	*East Cambridgeshire DC*[2]	*South Cambridgeshire DC*[3]
1 April 1999 to 31 December 2005	101	6	7
1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[1]	5	n/a	n/a
1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000	1	—	—
1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001	2	—	—
1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002	2	—	—
1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003	15	—	—
1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004	26	—	—
1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005	50	6	7

n/a = not available
[1] Between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa).
[2] Three orders cover all E and W.
[3] Two orders cover all E and W.
Notes:
1. This local authority area table differs from criminal justice system area (cjsa) tables in that an issuing court can be outside the area in which the have been imposed. For example, an issuing court may be in Hampshire (cjsa) but restrictions apply solely to a local authority area within Dorset.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were breached in Cambridgeshire in each year since their introduction. [153771]

Mr. Coaker: The information is shown in the following table.

B8ii: Number of ASBOs proven in court to have been breached[1] in Cambridgeshire as reported to the Home Office, in each year from 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2005

	Total ASBOs breached in:					
CJS area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Cambridgeshire	—	3	2	8	14	22

[1] Some of the ASBOs in the table have been breached in more than one year and have therefore been counted more than once. Breaches are counted in this table in the area of breach.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Assaults on Police

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on police officers there were in London in each of the last five years. [154809]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the table.

Assaults[1] on police officers from 2000-01 to 2004-05[2,3]

	London[4]
2000-01	—
2001-02	1,500
2002-03	1,941
2003-04	2,397
2004-05	2,667

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC in its Chief Inspector of Constabulary's Annual Reports.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[3] Data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been collated but have not yet been validated. HMIC have advised that they will no longer be publishing this dataset in their annual report.
[4] Metropolitan police and City of London police. Metropolitan police was unable to provide data for 2000-01.

Assets Recovery Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by the Assets Recovery Agency. [154735]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the director of the Asset Recovery Agency.

Association of Chief Police Officers: Information Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by the Association of Chief Police Officers. [154684]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Asylum: Eritrea

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has had made of the safety of refugees returned to Eritrea. [154567]

Mr. Byrne: The safety on return of unsuccessful asylum seekers from Eritrea is, as with all other nationalities, considered on an individual basis against the background of current information from a wide range of well-recognised sources about the situation in Eritrea. Those who are found not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK may return voluntarily. Where an individual does not return voluntarily, removal may be enforced. Enforced removals will only be undertaken where we are satisfied the individual has no protection needs.

Border and Immigration Agency

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of lost documentation have the Border and Immigration Agency received from members of the public in the last 12 months. [156341]

Mr. Byrne: For the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007, 183 complaints of lost documentation were recorded centrally. However, there will be instances where individuals will have written direct to various business areas which will not have been recorded centrally. It is not possible to state a more precise figure.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Border and Immigration Agency has paid compensation to members of the public for lost documentation over the last 12 months; and how much compensation was paid over that period. [156345]

Mr. Byrne: Such a level of detail is not required for the purposes of our ordinary financial reporting or accounting. This information is therefore not routinely available from one source within the Department and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average and *(b)* target length of time taken between the receipt of a letter by the Borders and Immigration Agency from an hon. Member and the sending of a substantive reply has been in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [156289]

Mr. Byrne: In the period 1 January to 31 March 2007, the last period full data is available for, the average length of time it took the Border and Immigration Agency to reply to a letter from an hon. Member was 17.34 working days.

The Border and Immigration Agency's target is to respond to 95 per cent. of Members' letters on immigration and nationality related matters within 20 working days. The Agency has already improved significantly from 34 per cent. in 2004 to 54 per cent. in 2005, 78 per cent. in 2006 and should achieve more than 85 per cent. in 2007.

Cannabis

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research studies the Government have *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed into the impact of the 2004 reclassification of cannabis on (i) levels of cannabis use and (ii) levels of harm from cannabis use; and if she will make a statement. [153894]

Mr. Coaker: In 2005 the Government asked the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to carry out a review of the classification of cannabis which took into account the harms from cannabis use on both physical and mental health, and the levels of cannabis use following reclassification. The evidence it reviewed is set out in Annex 4 of its Report, Further consideration of the classification of cannabis under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, together with prevalence data extracted from the British Crime Survey.

Central Police Training and Development Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by the Central Police Training and Development Authority. [154736]

Mr. McNulty: The Central Police Training and Development Authority (Centrex) ceased to exist on 1 April 2007.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. [154172]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre.

Computers: Waste Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department received from the disposal of information technology equipment in the last year for which figures are available; and what avenues were used for such disposal. [154036]

Mr. Byrne: The core Home Office, including the Border and Immigration Agency, does not own information technology (IT) assets other than internally developed software. Hardware is leased under service contracts.

For the financial year 2006-07, the only IT asset disposal within the Home Office group, including executive agencies, occurred in the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) which received a total of £2,781.73 from the disposal.

The IPS uses a company called RD Trading on an ad-hoc basis to remove information technology equipment that is no longer required.

Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances her Department awards contracts to outside organisations without undertaking a tendering process. [154033]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office procurement policy is to comply with its legal obligations, including those under the EU procurement rules, and public procurement policy. Goods, works or services are acquired through competitive tendering unless there are convincing reasons to the contrary, and all purchasing should be based on value for money criteria having regard to propriety and regularity.

Tendering processes may be omitted with regard to small, irregular, low value spot purchases such as individual travel and expense transactions where tendering costs outweigh the value for money benefits of a tendering process.

Criminal Record Bureau

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the differences are between basic and enhanced Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks; and what guidance has been given to public authorities on which type of CRB check should be commissioned. [153892]

Meg Hillier: A basic disclosure is the lowest level of disclosure. This would contain details of convictions considered to be unspent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974 or state that there are no such convictions. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not currently provide a basic check.

There are two levels of disclosures currently available from the CRB, known as standard and enhanced. The two checks are available in circumstances where an employer is entitled to ask exempted questions under the ROA. This includes any organisation whose staff or volunteers work with children or vulnerable adults.

Standard disclosures are available to anyone working with children or vulnerable adults, as well as certain other occupations and entry into professions as specified in the ROA. They show spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer. If the post involves working with children or vulnerable adults, the following may also be searched:

Protection of Children Act (POCA) List.

Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) List.

Information that is held under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (formerly known as List 99).

Enhanced disclosures are available to anyone involved in regularly caring for, training, supervising or being in sole charge of children or vulnerable adults. They are also available for certain licensing purposes and judicial appointments. Enhanced disclosures contain the same information as the standard disclosure with the addition of any relevant information held by local police forces and disclosed at their discretion.

It is ultimately for each employer and not the CRB to determine what level of check is required for specific employment positions. Such determination is based on their legal and other responsibilities and subject to any statutory requirements as set by their own regulatory authorities.

Detection Rates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for publication of crime detection rates by Basic Command Unit for 2006-07; and for what reason they were not published with the recorded crime statistics on 19 July 2007. [153891]

Mr. McNulty: The content of the annual bulletin on crime is reviewed each year and as part of this a decision was made that it would be more appropriate to focus this bulletin on crime and victimisation and to plan to produce a separate bulletin specifically on detections rates.

Given the work involved in producing the crime bulletin it was not feasible to produce the bulletin on detections at the same time. However, some information on detections was included in Appendix 3 of the annual bulletin that appeared on 19 July.

The statistical bulletin on detection of crime by the police in 2006-07 was published on 20 September 2007. The information is too large to be included within the *Official Report* but it can be accessed on-line at the following web addresses. I will arrange for the relevant tables to be placed in the Library of the House.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bcu2-0607.xls and

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bcu3-0607.xls

Driving Under Influence: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink-driving tests were carried out in the Peterborough constituency in each year since 1997. [154070]

Mr. Coaker: Data collected centrally relate to police force areas only and are not available at constituency level.

Driving: Insurance

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions took place against uninsured drivers in the Northumbria police force area in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [154307]

Mr. Coaker: The latest figures are for the period 1997 to 2004 and are given as follows. Figures for 2005 will be available later this year.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], Northumbria police force area, 1997 to 2004

	Total proceedings
1997	12,470
1998	11,837
1999	13,296
2000	13,195
2001	12,504
2002	12,309
2003[2]	12,951
2004	11,685

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).

[2] As from 1 June 2003, "driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks" became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:

It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete. Work is underway to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system currently being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned into the effect of the Government's 10-year drug strategy on reducing availability at street level of illicit drugs; and if she will make a statement. [153885]

Mr. Coaker: The following projects *(a)* undertaken by Home Office researchers looked at the effectiveness of attempts to reduce the availability of drugs at street level:

An evaluation of the Street Level Up Approach Pilot Project in four sites in England, assessing the use of intelligence to disrupt drug trafficking. The final report was not published but circulated on a restricted basis.

An evaluation of three initiatives established to tackle "middle market" drug trafficking: Operation Middle Market, Merseyside Middle Market Drugs Unit and Tarian Regional Task Force. A report summarising learning from the research was published for a police audience. Copies of the report are only available on request from the relevant Head of the Research Unit.

The following research projects *(b)* commissioned by the Home Office looked at the effectiveness of attempts to reduce the availability of drugs at street level:

A study of retail drug markets and the local action taken against them in eight deprived neighbourhoods. A report is available on the Home Office RDS website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors240.pdf

A project examining the implementation of new powers to close "crack houses" in four case study areas. Findings were published on the Home Office RDS website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/dpr42.pdf

An estimate of the size of the UK illicit drug market for six categories of illicit drugs for the reference year 2003-04. A report is available on the Home Office RDS website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr1606.pdf.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what research studies the Government have *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed which compare (i) the levels of illicit drug use and (ii) the levels of drug-related harm associated with international classification/regulatory systems; and if she will make a statement; [153886]

(2) what indicators her Department uses to measure the impact of changing the status of a drug within the ABC classification system on *(a)* levels of illicit drug use and *(b)* levels of drug-related harm; and if she will make a statement. [153888]

Mr. Coaker: The indicators used to measure illicit drug use and drug-related harm are not predicated on the Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) classification system.

Indicators on prevalence of illicit drug use among the general adult population in England and Wales are set out in reports based on the annual British Crime Survey. Indicators relating to children of school age are published in reports of the annual survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among secondary schoolchildren in England. The Drug Harm Index (DHI) provides an overall measure of the level of drug-related harm and how it changes over time. The operation of the DHI is set out in Measuring the harm from illegal drugs using the Drug Harm Index (Home Office Online Report 24/05).

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research studies the Government have *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed into the impact of changing the status of a drug within the ABC classification system on (i) availability and price at street level of illicit drugs and (ii) the levels of drug-related harm; and if she will make a statement. [153887]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 only two drugs have changed in status within the Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) classification system—cannabis in 2004 and methamphetamine in January 2007. The Government undertake several surveys to monitor evidence of trends in availability and price, but these are not predicted on the ABC classification system.

The Arrestee Survey and the annual survey of drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England provide data on the perceived availability of drugs. Data on price at street level has in the past been collected by the National Criminal Intelligence Service, using information generated during the course of police operations. The Drug Harm Index (DHI) provides an overall measure of the level of drug-related harm and how it changes over time. The operation of the DHI is set out in Measuring the harm from illegal drugs using the Drug Harm Index (Home Office Online Report 24/05).

Drugs: Offences

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances US citizens with past drugs offences are not allowed to enter the UK. [156070]

Mr. Byrne: US citizens and other non visa nationals do not require a visa if seeking entry as a visitor to the UK for six months or less, however they are required to satisfy an Immigration Officer that they intend to stay for the period they have stated and that they do not intend to work or claim public funds.

In the event that the Immigration Officer becomes aware that the passenger has a criminal record or has been involved in criminal activity then they may be refused leave to enter.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices have been issued in the last 12 months; and how many have been contested in court. [154575]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

In 2004 (latest available) 3,435,254 motoring fixed penalty notices were issued. 2005 data will be available later this year.

Information on recipients of motoring offences fixed penalty notices who elect to challenge the penalty in court is not identifiable separately within the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

In addition, penalty notice for disorder (PND) may be issued to offenders aged 16 and over for a specified range of minor disorder offences. PNDs have a 21 day suspended enforcement period during which the recipient must either pay the penalty shown on the notice in full or request a court hearing.

In 2005 146,481 PNDs were issued, of which 1,588 were contested in court. The equivalent information for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Foreign Workers: Care Homes

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the Department of Health and *(b)* devolved administrations on the implications of restrictions in the number of work permits issued to overseas care workers. [149341]

Mr. Byrne: Work permits are issued where employers are able to justify that the work permit criteria are met.

The Border and Immigration Agency has held meetings with the Department of Health since January 2007 to develop updated guidance for issuing work permits for senior care workers.

The Border and Immigration Agency has consulted via correspondence with the Scottish Executive Health Department; Care Council for Wales (on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government); and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for Northern Ireland since April 2007 to develop updated guidance for issuing work permits for senior care workers.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with care providers on the issuing of work permits for overseas care staff. [149342]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency has conducted normal business correspondence relating to individual work permit applications and meetings with individual employers at their request. The purpose of such meetings is to discuss issues specific to work permit applications submitted by that employer.

The Border and Immigration Agency holds quarterly Sector Advisory Panel meetings with representatives from key industry bodies (including Sector Skills Councils) and other Government Departments. A key feature of each meeting is to discuss labour market issues affecting the relevant industry such as training, recruitment, skills and pay.

The Border and Immigration Agency has also held meetings with Skills for Care and Development, which is the Sector Skills Council for the social care work force in the UK, since January 2007 to develop updated guidance for issuing work permits for senior care workers.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to publish new guidelines on the issuing of work permits for senior care workers; and if she will make a statement. [149344]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency published updated guidance regarding work permit applications for senior care workers on 13 August 2007.

This guidance is available on the website:

http://www.workingintheuk.gov.uk/working_in_the_uk/en/homepage/news/announcements/senior_care_workers_guidance.html

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 894W, on genetics: databases, what studies have been conducted by her Department on the impact of the national DNA database on black and minority ethnic communities. [154203]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office Forensic Science and Pathology Unit conducted a review in 2005-06. In April 2007 responsibility for the National DNA Database transferred to the National Policing Improvement Agency who are currently conducting an equality impact assessment on the database.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 894W, on genetics: databases, what consultations she has had with representatives of *(a)* the Commission for Racial Equality and *(b)* black and minority ethnic communities on the use of the national DNA database. [154297]

Jacqui Smith: The National Policing Improvement Agency has consulted with representatives from the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), including the CRE director of legal services. The ongoing equality impact assessment of the National DNA Database will include a programme of consultation with minority communities and in particular young black people.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date she expects to launch Operation Pentameter 2; whether Devon and Cornwall Constabulary will be involved in the operation; who will be heading it; what its objective will be; what additional staff will be allocated to the operation; and what the budget will be for the operation. [155457]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Home Secretary will be launching Operation Pentameter 2 with ACPO on 3 October. It will be a multi agency operation, UK wide, and will involve all 55 police forces co-ordinated by the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

The theme of the operation will be the same as last year and will aim to tackle trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The operation will be funded through existing resources. The UK Human Trafficking Centre receives a budget of £5 million per annum to support counter trafficking activity among local forces.

Immigrants: Criminal Records

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals being held in immigration detention centres have *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign criminal records; and for which categories of crimes. [154934]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained only by conducting police national computer checks and liaising with foreign governments for all individuals held in immigration detention centres which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Immigrants: Skilled Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the Commission for Racial Equality's letter to the Border and Immigration Agency stating that the changes to the rules on highly skilled migrants were discriminatory. [154027]

Mr. Byrne: The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency responded to the letter she received from the Commission for Racial Equality on 6 July. I am placing a copy of her response in the Libraries of both Houses.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [154120]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Overseas Students

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to prevent fake educational institutions enabling people to enter the UK posing as students. [154511]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1 January 2005, only overseas students who can show that they have a place to study or are already studying at an institution which appears on the Register of Education Providers (REP) have been granted entry clearances or extensions of stay as students. The REP is operated by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the application process requires institutions to prove that they operate out of registered premises etc. The REP has been very successful in combating bogus colleges, particularly those which were entirely fictitious. In 2004, some 1,200 were visited ahead of the REP being implemented and 25 per cent were found not to be genuine and were prevented from registering. A further 69 colleges have so far been removed from the Register through a combination of visits conducted by compliance officers in the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) as well as removals instigated by DIUS. Since July 2007, as the BIA has expanded its compliance resource in preparation for the introduction of the new points based system (PBS) for managing migration, officers have also begun to make more pro-active visits to colleges applying to get on the REP to prevent the registration of those found not to be bona fide.

Under the PBS we have plans to go even further. Under Tier 4: (Students) of the PBS, all education institutions will need to be registered on a new register of sponsors in order to recruit international students. No private educational institution will be able to qualify for the sponsor register unless they can demonstrate that they have been independently inspected or accredited by one of a limited number of BIA-approved accreditation bodies. As announced by DIUS on 24 July 2007, accreditation will be used to provide an independent qualitative check on an institution to demonstrate it is a genuine education provider. Tier 4 is expected to replace the current system for students in the first quarter of 2009. Unaccredited educational institutions have some 16 months to obtain the necessary accreditation in order to continue bringing international students to the UK after that date and we are confident that less reputable education providers will not be able to pass this additional test.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protection and recourse is available for foreign students arriving in the UK who have unwittingly paid money to fake educational institutions and may not work under the terms of their student visa. [154512]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration rules set out provisions for international students to study at a bona fide private education institution which is included on the Register of Education and Training Providers. A definition of a bona fide private education institution is contained in the rules. Where it is found that an institution fails to meet this definition, it is prohibited from enrolling any more international students by being removed from the Register. Where the students at such institutions are unable to continue their studies, or where students are dissatisfied with the tuition at a college, the student rules permit them to move to another institution which is included on the Register of Education and Training Providers.

Such students may also wish to report their circumstances to their local Trading Standards Office or seek legal advice about the loss of their fees. Where a student has more serious concerns that an institution is facilitating illegal migration, then they should also contact the police.

The immigration rules permit those studying in the UK with a student visa to work part-time term-time and full-time in vacations.

Police Stations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations were closed in London in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [154816]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estates in London are operational matters for the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police.

Police: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of police officers in Cambridgeshire had the primary function of traffic policing in each of the last five years. [153772]

Mr. McNulty: The data are available are from 2002-03 to 2005-06 and are given in the table.

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function[2] is "Traffic" in Cambridgeshire from 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2006

	Traffic	*Proportion of total officer strength*
2002-03	85	6.1
2003-04	99	7.0
2004-05	101	7.1
2005-06	99	6.8

Notes:

1. This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
2. Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. The does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

Prisoners: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national prisoners have been deported in 2007; [154206]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners were deported in each of the last 10 years. [154208]

Jacqui Smith: The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 14 June. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Statistics on the deportation of foreign nationals were last published in 2002. These data are available through the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at:

www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm60/6053/6053.htm

Published information on persons removed as a result of deportation action has not been available from 2003 onwards due to data quality issues. The Border and Immigration Agency is putting in place new systems to improve its data collection systems for the future in this area.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made towards the Prime Minister's target of deporting 4,000 prisoners of foreign origin by the end of the year; and what categories of crimes these prisoners were convicted of. [155647]

Mr. Byrne: The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 14 June in which she provided an update on progress being made with foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

Prisons: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison governors have visited prisons abroad to examine their drug treatment systems. [156495]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Prison governors may occasionally visit overseas prisons to examine aspects of their penal system. No records are kept of prison governors specifically visiting prisons abroad in order to examine prison drug treatment systems.

Repatriation

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prisoners have been deported to *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Lebanon, *(c)* Jordan and *(d)* Algeria since the Repatriation Agreement with each country was signed; [154301]

(2) what monitoring of Libyan prisoners has taken place following their repatriation under the Repatriation Agreement; [154302]

(3) what monitoring of Lebanese prisoners has taken place following their repatriation under the Repatriation Agreement; [154303]

(4) what monitoring of Jordanian prisoners has taken place following their repatriation under the Repatriation Agreement; [154304]

(5) what monitoring of Algerian prisoners has taken place following their repatriation under the Repatriation Agreement. [154305]

Mr. Byrne: The repatriation arrangements to which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister referred in his statement to the House on 25 July are the memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on deportation which were signed with Jordan, Libya, and Lebanon in 2005, and the separate arrangements we have agreed with Algeria. Copies of the MoUs, and of the exchange of letters between the previous Prime Minister and the President of Algeria, are in the Library.

The terms of the MoUs signed with Jordan, Libya and Lebanon provide for the independent monitoring of assurances. Such monitoring has however not yet been needed as the Jordanian and Libyan individuals we wish to deport from the United Kingdom on national security grounds under the MoUs are still within the process of appealing against our decisions.

Since July 2005, eight men have been deported to Algeria on grounds of national security. There are no formal arrangements for post-deportation monitoring. However, the eight individuals concerned were given details of how to contact the embassy in Algiers, and were asked if they wished to provide details of next of kin who could be contacted by the embassy. Two chose to take up this offer, a third merely wanted us to let his relatives know his arrival details.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the provisions of the UN Convention on Torture are included in the Repatriation Agreements being concluded by the UK with other countries; [154298]

(2) which countries the Government are in negotiations with about a Repatriation Agreement; [154299]

(3) what conditions are placed by the UK on a country before a repatriation agreement can be signed. [154300]

Mr. Byrne: The agreements referred to are the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on deportation with assurances (DWA) agreed with Jordan, Libya and Lebanon in 2005, and the separate arrangements under which we are able to obtain assurances in respect of people we are seeking to deport to Algeria.

These questions seek information about the numbers of prisoners deported under the arrangements and what monitoring has taken place.

The ongoing appeals process means we have not yet deported anyone under the MoUs with Jordan and Libya, and we have not yet found it necessary to seek assurances under the MoU with Lebanon. Although monitoring arrangements are in place for all three countries, to date, no actual monitoring has occurred.

Since July 2005, eight men have been deported to Algeria on grounds of national security. (A further individual who held dual Algerian and French nationality was deported to France on national security grounds). The arrangements with Algeria do not provide for formal monitoring following deportation. The deportees are given details of how they can contact the British embassy in Algiers, and are also asked if they wish to provide the details of next-of-kin who can serve as a contact point. Two of the eight opted to maintain contact with the embassy, a further individual merely asked for his relatives to be informed of his flight details.

All the men deported to Algeria were detained and questioned following their return, as provided for under Algerian law. Six were subsequently released; two are still detained in custody and are now facing criminal charges.

The terms of the draft answer have been cleared with LAB, OSCT and the FCO's Counter-Terrorism Policy Department.

Resettlement: Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response the Government has made to the representations of Amnesty International for the UK and US to provide resettlement programmes for Iraqis who have fled their homes since 2003. [156081]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are aware that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Amnesty International have called for countries to resettle some Iraqi refugees in the region. The Border and Immigration Agency has started discussions with UNHCR regarding the feasibility of resettling some of the Iraqi refugees in the region to the UK. The UK's resettlement programme, the Gateway Protection Programme, currently resettles 500 refugees a year from across the world.

Security Industry Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by the Security Industry Authority. [154426]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Security Industry Authority.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [154119]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Director General of the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Terrorism

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 841, on national security, how many of the 30 known terror plots, 200 groupings or networks and 2,000 individuals have police and security services begun monitoring *(a)* between 11 September 2001 and 19 March 2003 and *(b)* since 19th March 2003. [154375]

Mr. McNulty: It has been the longstanding practice of successive Governments not to comment on the operational activities of the security and intelligence agencies.

Visas: Iraq

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make special arrangements to issue visas to those Iraqi nationals who have directly assisted British forces in Basra to enter the United Kingdom should they wish to do so. [155739]

Mr. Byrne: The Prime Minister commissioned a ministerial review on 8 August 2007 of assistance that might be offered to members of locally engaged staff in Iraq. We will announce the outcome of that review shortly.

Water Supply: Security

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the security arrangements for bowsers which are utilised in a national emergency. [154346]

Mr. McNulty: The security of water bowsers during a national emergency is an operational matter for local chief officers of police, in consultation with water authorities.

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons it was decided to fingerprint visitors to Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. [154209]

Jacqui Smith: Visitors to Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre are not fingerprinted. A new security system is being used which takes an electronic scan of a visitor's thumbprint and recognises a number of points on the thumb to enable the centre operator to maintain a record of who is in the visits room at any time. This ensures that only visitors leave at the end of a visit. The technology does not enable a fingerprint to be reproduced and the information on the system is not passed to either the Border and Immigration Agency or the Police. The thumbprint is not retained.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of prospective employees at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre have been rejected in each of the last five years after being deemed unsuitable due to a background check. [154211]

Jacqui Smith: The percentages of prospective employees at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre who did not pass pre-employment checks in the last five years are as follows:

	Percentage
2002	2
2003	2
2004	2
2005	3
2006	6

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what background checks prospective employees at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre undergo. [154212]

Jacqui Smith: Individuals seeking employment at any immigration removal centre, including Yarl's Wood are required to undergo pre-employment checks on their immigration and financial background, counter-terrorist checks and criminal record checks to enhanced level are also carried out. Applicants must pass all of these checks before they can be accredited.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances detainees at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre are placed in handcuffs. [154210]

Jacqui Smith: Handcuffs can be applied to adult detainees following a risk assessment indicating that an individual presents a control or security risk, or in response to an immediate incident. The purpose of handcuffing is to reduce the risk of: absconding; harm to the public, other detainees or staff; damage to property; preventing removal from the United Kingdom; or attempting to prevent the removal of another detainee. Handcuffs are only used when necessary and not as a matter of routine.

Young Offenders: Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research studies the Government have *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed on the effect of drugs education and prevention work with young offenders on reducing levels of (i) illicit drug use and (ii) drug-related harm; and if she will make a statement. [153884]

Mr. Coaker: Young offenders are one of the key risk groups identified as more at risk of developing substance misuse problems. Government Departments consider new reports and studies as part of their daily activity to ensure that current policies are based on up to date information and evidence. Recent and current research on the effect of drug education and prevention work on young offenders' drug use and drug related harm is as follows:

The National Collaborating Centre for Drug Prevention, funded through the Department of Health, produced a review in 2006 of evidence on interventions for vulnerable groups including young offenders.

The Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS) for under-18s in custody was launched in 2004. Its development and delivery has been evaluated since 2004, undertaken by Galahad on behalf of the Youth Justice Board (YJB). This evaluation is due to be published in September 2007.

JUSTICE

Absent Voting

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what response he has made to the recommendation of the Electoral Commission to require local authority returning officers to check 100 per cent. of the identifiers of postal votes in election counts. [154331]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to the principle that 100 per cent. of returned postal votes should be checked. The Government will wish to move to 100 per cent. checking when it is appropriate and safe to do so, and in particular when there is deemed to be sufficient supplier capacity for checking all returned postal votes. We will work closely with the Electoral Commission and the Association of Electoral Administrators in order to establish when this position has been reached.

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there were for the torture of animals in each year since 2001. [154377]

Bridget Prentice: There is no specific offence for torture of animals.

However, information on the number of defendants prosecuted for animal cruelty in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005 can be viewed in the following table.

Detailed information on court proceedings for 2006 will be published in the autumn of 2007.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court for the offence of cruelty to animals, in England and Wales, for the years 2001 to 2005[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Prosecuted
2001	975
2002	1,006
2003	999
2004	984
2005	1,061

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.

As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Statute is as follows:

Protection of Animals Act 1911.

[4] Source: Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Source:

RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Antisocial Behaviour: Milton Keynes

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* parenting orders, *(b)* parenting contracts and *(c)* antisocial behaviour orders were initiated in Milton Keynes in each year since their introduction. [155669]

Mr. Hanson: Parenting orders were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 but data showing the breakdown by area are not available. Parenting orders were commenced in England and Wales in June 2000. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has since April 2000 collected the number of parenting orders by youth offending team (YOT) area, as reported to it by youth offending teams including education-related orders where the YOT has been involved. The number of parenting orders relating to crime or antisocial behaviour from April 2000 until March 2007 and those related to non-attendance of children at school until March 2004 reported to the YJB by Milton Keynes YOT are shown in table A:

Table A: Parenting orders related to youth offending or antisocial behaviour and non-attendance reported by Milton Keynes YOT

	Youth offending or antisocial behaviour	*Non-attendance where YOT involved*
2000-01	0	0
2001-02	1	1
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	2	see table B
2005-06	0	see table B
2006-07	0	see table B

Since September 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has collected data on the number of parenting orders in England related to non-attendance of children at school and exclusion from school at local authority level. Between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007 Milton Keynes did not report any applications to the courts for parenting orders in the case of exclusions.

The number of parenting orders made following truancy prosecution between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007 is shown in table B.

Table B: Parenting orders made following truancy prosecution between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007

School year	*Number*
2004-05	0
2005-06	2
2006-07	0

Data on parenting contracts in cases of antisocial behaviour and criminal conduct is collected by the Youth Justice Board as reported by YOTs. Since recording began in April 2004 of the number of final warnings with an intervention or relevant court disposal supported by a parenting contract, Milton Keynes YOT has reported no parenting contracts in the period April 2004 to March 2007.

Recording of the number of final warnings with an intervention or relevant court disposal supported by a voluntary parenting intervention, without a parenting contract, also began in April 2004. Milton Keynes YOT reported 31 such voluntary parenting interventions in the year April 2004 to March 2005, 41 in 2005-06 and 54 in 2006-07.

DCSF also collects data on the number of parenting contracts agreed with parents following bad behaviour/truancy in school. The number of parenting contracts agreed in the case of poor attendance (truancy) at school between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007 is shown in table C.

Table C: Parenting contracts for truancy

School year	*Number*
2004-05	0
2005-06	19
2006-07	9

The number of antisocial behaviour orders as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service where prohibitions have been imposed in the Milton Keynes borough council local authority area is shown in table D.

Table D: Antisocial behaviour orders in Milton Keynes

	Number
1 April 1999 to May 2000	n/a
1 June 2000 to 31December 2000	0
2001	3
2002	0
2003	4
2004	13
2005	2
Total	22

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. Between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

Asylum: Birmingham

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which asylum seekers resident in Birmingham, Selly Oak constituency have had cases heard by judges *(a)* Illyas Khan and *(b)* J, involved in the Roselane Driza case. [156386]

Mr. Hanson: It would be inappropriate to identify individual asylum seekers who may fall into the categories requested as it would breach their right to privacy and compromise the anonymity of Judge J.

Bail

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's estimate is of the effect on the prison population of reversing the presumption in favour of bail in the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [155504]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to make a precise calculation for full implementation of the provisions for reversing the presumption in favour of bail in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 because of the limited data held centrally and because significant assumptions have to be made about the characteristics of the cases affected.

We are pursuing a carefully phased implementation taking account of prison capacity, starting with the most serious offences.

Claims Management Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which claims handlers have been registered by the Claims Management Regulator. [155592]

Mr. Hanson: As at 4 October 2007, 1,476 businesses have been authorised to provide a regulated claims management service in at least one of the regulated sectors which include personal injury, employment, financial services and products, criminal injuries compensation and industrial injuries disablement benefit. Names and addresses of authorised businesses are listed on the claims management website at www.claimsregulation.gov.uk under the authorised business search tab. This register is updated daily.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is provided by the Claims Management Regulator to providers of claims management services on levels of fees charged for the accessing of consumer files. [155593]

Mr. Hanson: The Claims Management Regulator has not provided any specific guidance to authorised businesses on the level of fees charged for accessing consumer files. It is a mandatory condition of authorisation that authorised businesses comply with the Rules of Conduct. These specifically require a business to "ensure all information given to a client is clear, transparent, fair and not misleading". If a claims business has a contractual relationship with a client then it must specify "any charge the business makes".

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings have taken place between the Claims Management Regulator and the Law Society since April. [155594]

Mr. Hanson: Since April the Claims Management Regulator has met the Law Society once, the Solicitors Regulation Authority three times and the Legal Complaints Service once. The Law Society and the Solicitors Regulation Authority are also members of the Regulatory Consultative Group on Claims Management which has met three times since April. There have been numerous other types of communications with these organisations since April.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what communications have taken place between the Claims Management Regulator and the Serious Fraud Office since April. [155597]

Mr. Hanson: There have been no communications between the Claims Management Regulator and the Serious Fraud Office since April. As necessary the Regulator has communicated with other law enforcement agencies including various police forces and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Community Service Orders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders with unpaid work orders have *(a)* not completed their orders and *(b)* been summoned back to court within the term of the order in each supervising court in England and Wales in each of the last three years; [155394]

(2) how many offenders completed their unpaid work orders in each supervising court in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [155395]

Mr. Hanson: Unpaid work requirements were introduced under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which came into effect on 4 April 2005. They can be made under Community Orders or Suspended Sentence Orders, and are supervised by the National Probation Service. Information on the number of unpaid work requirements which *(a)* were not completed and *(b)* completed in each of the last two financial years, by individual probation area, can be found in the following tables. Given the recent introduction of these requirements, it follows that the number of terminations will increase significantly over the first few years. Information on those specifically summoned back to court is not held centrally.

This information has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Non-completions of unpaid work requirements by year, probation area and reason

	2005-06					
Area	*Revoked (further offence)*	*Revoked (on application)*	*Revoked (failure to comply)*	*Revoked (failure to comply on another req)*	*Terminated (other reasons)*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	13	17	63	3	6	102
Bedfordshire	15	6	19	0	15	55
Cambridgeshire	20	5	22	0	4	51
Cheshire	11	12	26	7	9	65
Cumbria	14	15	27	5	17	78
Derbyshire	23	9	51	2	3	88
Devon and Cornwall	25	16	93	5	12	151

Non-completions of unpaid work requirements by year, probation area and reason

2005-06

Area	*Revoked (further offence)*	*Revoked (on application)*	*Revoked (failure to comply)*	*Revoked (failure to comply on another req)*	*Terminated (other reasons)*	*Total*
Dorset	3	0	10	1	1	15
Durham	21	7	15	0	1	44
Dyfed-Powys	19	14	22	3	1	59
Essex	23	25	33	1	15	97
Gloucestershire	5	8	9	0	3	25
Greater Manchester	90	24	302	11	33	460
Gwent	18	8	15	1	7	49
Hampshire	42	37	140	6	12	237
Hertfordshire	11	9	30	1	15	66
Humberside	42	18	60	1	27	148
Kent	21	24	74	3	11	133
Lancashire	45	44	47	7	16	159
Leicestershire	15	11	31	5	13	75
Lincolnshire	10	15	27	0	4	56
London	85	25	128	9	171	418
Merseyside	7	18	71	0	56	152
Norfolk	13	13	38	2	8	74
North Wales	12	6	11	1	7	37
North Yorkshire	34	15	54	7	15	125
Northamptonshire	15	6	12	1	2	36
Northumbria	37	36	40	8	11	132
Nottinghamshire	34	20	119	7	13	193
South Wales	42	26	65	6	8	147
South Yorkshire	31	23	112	4	13	183
Staffordshire	26	9	34	3	5	77
Suffolk	17	9	41	0	12	79
Surrey	13	11	43	3	5	75
Sussex	18	8	42	2	4	74
Teesside	16	18	38	1	7	80
Thames Valley	20	6	15	0	22	63
Warwickshire	4	5	26	3	5	43
West Mercia	20	5	45	1	4	75
West Midlands	74	11	64	2	24	175
West Yorkshire	74	27	184	13	22	320
Wiltshire	10	3	21	5	2	41

2006-07

Area	*Revoked (further offence)*	*Revoked (on application)*	*Revoked (failure to comply)*	*Revoked (failure to comply on another req)*	*Terminated (other reasons)*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	76	104	273	17	55	525
Bedfordshire	66	45	98	1	3	213
Cambridgeshire	62	41	81	3	13	200
Cheshire	59	45	166	36	80	386
Cumbria	57	112	129	29	65	392
Derbyshire	101	23	314	14	16	468
Devon and Cornwall	68	70	309	7	38	492
Dorset	22	44	85	7	113	271
Durham	66	47	72	5	14	204
Dyfed-Powys	70	37	69	7	23	206
Essex	118	119	136	9	46	428
Gloucestershire	45	65	46	4	20	180
Greater Manchester	325	224	999	29	98	1675
Gwent	119	64	124	11	73	391
Hampshire	125	140	447	14	72	798
Hertfordshire	54	83	179	26	25	367

Area	Revoked (further offence)	Revoked (on application)	Revoked (failure to comply)	Revoked (failure to comply on another req)	Terminated (other reasons)	Total
	2006-07					
Humberside	91	104	164	8	164	531
Kent	122	123	309	6	18	578
Lancashire	175	120	437	20	233	985
Leicestershire	123	148	202	5	98	576
Lincolnshire	81	70	106	3	37	297
London	432	201	977	55	433	2098
Merseyside	81	49	546	3	139	818
Norfolk	63	62	193	1	12	331
North Wales	59	55	54	7	35	210
North Yorkshire	79	77	167	10	92	425
Northamptonshire	50	33	85	11	15	194
Northumbria	176	115	248	42	42	623
Nottinghamshire	166	153	480	23	23	845
South Wales	188	144	268	19	145	764
South Yorkshire	133	115	423	18	86	775
Staffordshire	72	59	211	25	20	387
Suffolk	44	29	115	8	38	234
Surrey	27	55	185	13	29	309
Sussex	55	82	248	11	20	416
Teesside	137	61	104	3	23	328
Thames Valley	124	106	181	7	52	470
Warwickshire	51	20	163	7	6	247
West Mercia	64	31	185	4	12	296
West Midlands	298	165	322	8	66	859
West Yorkshire	240	128	692	50	90	1200
Wiltshire	19	53	132	10	16	230

Courts: Greater London

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact of the reduction of maintenance funding of the London Courts Service for 2007-08. [156458]

Maria Eagle: Maintenance expenditure within London is planned in line with an agreed estate strategy which sets the priorities for maintaining buildings in line with business objectives whilst ensuring a safe and secure working environment. Annual maintenance budgets and programmes of work are agreed in line with this strategy and on the basis of identified business and building risks. Plans and programmes are reviewed quarterly in light of changing requirements and risks, with budgets and programmes amended accordingly. Total maintenance expenditure for 2006-07 (capital and revenue) was £19,145,895. Forecast expenditure (capital and revenue) for the financial year 2007-08 is currently £18,796,250, a reduction in overall expenditure of £349,645 over 2006-07. This reflects planned reductions in both the size of regional estate and efficiency savings achieved as a result.

Courts: Salisbury

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons construction work has not started on the new courthouse in Salisbury. [155621]

Maria Eagle: The contract was signed with the developer on 1 October 2007 for the new courthouse in Salisbury. The developer plans to start on site during the week beginning 8 October 2007. The new courthouse is due to come into service in the summer of 2009.

Courts: Video Equipment

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many large video screens are available at courts in England and Wales; and at which courts are they available. [156457]

Maria Eagle: There are 239 courtrooms equipped with large video screens in England and Wales. These cover 63 Crown court centres and 59 magistrates courts. The courtrooms equipped with large screens are listed as follows:

Bristol Crown Court
Luton Crown Court
Teesside Crown Court
Carlisle Crown Court
Basildon Crown Court
Central Criminal Court
Inner London Crown Court
Kingston Crown Court (London)
Blackfriars Crown Court
Southwark Crown Court
Snaresbrook Crown Court
Manchester Crown Square Crown Court

Portsmouth Crown Court
Southampton Crown Court
Maidstone Crown Court
Preston Combined Court Ringway
Liverpool Crown Court
Newcastle Crown Court
Nottingham Crown Court
Cardiff Crown Court
Swansea St. Helens Crown Court
Sheffield Crown Court
Stoke Crown Court
Reading Crown Court
Birmingham Crown Court
Wolverhampton Crown Court
Bradford Crown Court
Leeds Crown Court
Bolton Crown Court
Cambridge Crown Court
Canterbury Crown Court
Chester Crown Court
Derby Crown Court
Durham Crown Court
Gloucester Crown Court
Ipswich Crown Court
Kingston-upon-Hull Crown Court
Lewes Crown Court
Northampton Crown Court
Norwich Crown Court
Peterborough Crown Court
Plymouth Crown Court
Stafford Crown Court
Swindon Crown Court
Truro Crown Court
Winchester Crown Court
Wood Green Crown Court
Oxford Crown Court
Croydon Crown Court
Warrington Crown Court (satellite of Chester Crown Court)
Manchester Minshull Street Crown Court
Isleworth Crown Court
Chelmsford Crown Court
Harrow Crown Court
Newport Crown Court
Grimsby Crown Court
Mold Crown Court
Leicester Crown Court
St. Albans Crown Court
Coventry Crown Court
Bournemouth Crown Court
Woolwich Crown Court
Caernarfon Crown Court (satellite of Mold Crown Court)
Taunton Crown Court
Guildford Crown Court
Thames Magistrates Court
Feltham Magistrates Court
Acton Magistrates Court
Barnet Magistrates Court
Mansfield Magistrates Court
Knowsley Magistrates Court
Camberwell Green Magistrates Court
Bexley Magistrates Court
Solihull Magistrates Court
West London Magistrates Court
Havering Magistrates Court
Coventry Magistrates Court
Walsall Magistrates Court
West Bromwich Magistrates Court
Wolverhampton Magistrates Court
Manchester Magistrates Court
Oldham Magistrates Court
Rochdale Magistrates Court
Hull Magistrates Court
Blackburn Magistrates Court
Bath Magistrates Court
Croydon Magistrates Court
Waltham Forest Magistrates Court
Enfield Magistrates Court
Bridgwater Magistrates Court
Halesowen Magistrates Court
Rotherham Magistrates Court
Southport Magistrates Court
Balham Youth Court
Wigan Magistrates Court
Bolton Magistrates Court
Stockport Magistrates Court
Tameside Magistrates Court
Trafford Magistrates Court
Leyland Magistrates Court
Lancaster Magistrates Court
Preston Magistrates Courts
Blackpool Magistrates Court
Burnley Magistrates Court
St. Helens Magistrates Court
Liverpool Magistrates Court
Bishop Auckland Magistrates Court
Yate Magistrates Court
Reedley Magistrates Court
Weston Magistrates Court
Yeovil Magistrates Court
High Wycombe Magistrates Court
Berwick Magistrates Court
Alnwick Magistrates Court
Doncaster Magistrates Court
Barnsley Magistrates Court
Sheffield Magistrates Court
Gloucester Magistrates Court
Wimbledon Magistrates Court
Richmond (London) Magistrates Court

Criminal Cases Review Commission: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the impact of reducing funding for the Criminal Cases Review Commission in 2007-08. [156008]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Cases Review Commission's budget for 2007-08 allows the Commission to spend up to £6,858,000, as compared with £6,771,000 in 2006-07, despite a reduction in the overall envelope. Departmental officials meet with the senior management team of the Commission on a monthly basis to monitor their budget and performance against targets. I understand that the Commission are currently forecasting an under-spend overall as some expenditure has been postponed, although this may change later in the year.

Criminal Justice Act 2003

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his assessment is of the financial implications of implementing sections 154 and 155 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [155545]

Mr. Hanson: Implementation of sections 154 and 155 (magistrates sentencing powers) in conjunction with sections 181 and 182 (custody plus sentence) was deferred in July 2006. No assessment has been made of implementing the magistrates sentencing powers independently of the custody plus sentence.

Defamation: Internet

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many libel actions have been brought in respect of claims made exclusively on websites in each year since 1997; and how many of these were made *(a)* by a person or company considered to be based in the UK and *(b)* against a person or company considered to be based in the UK. [155622]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of libel actions that have been brought in respect of claims made exclusively on websites in each year since 1997; and the number of these which were made *(a)* by a person or company considered to be based in the UK and *(b)* against a person or company considered to be based in the UK is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

There is no single database of High Court cases which could be consulted to provide the information requested; the only way that this information could be obtained would be to consult each case file.

The county courts use the CaseMan IT system to record case details primarily for case management purposes. The system does not hold sufficient detailed data to enable cases involving libel to be specifically identified. Again, this information could only be obtained by consulting court case files.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many internet service providers have been subject to libel actions in each year since 1997. [155623]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of internet service providers who have been subject to libel actions in each year since 1997 is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There is no single database of High Court cases which could be consulted to provide the information requested; the only way that this information could be obtained would be to consult each case file.

The county courts use the CaseMan IT system to record case details primarily for case management purposes. The system does not hold sufficient detailed data to enable cases involving libel to be specifically identified. Again, this information could only be obtained by consulting court case files.

Departments: Departmental Coordination

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by his Department to liaise with the Minister for Women. [155434]

Maria Eagle: We have not set up any formal committees or permanent groups involving senior civil servants to liaise with the Minister for Women although we work closely with the Government Equalities Office on a range of issues.

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many press officers are employed by his Department; [153026]

(2) how many press officers are employed by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. [154174]

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many press officers are employed by the Land Registry; [154130]

(2) how many press officers are employed by HM Court Service. [154131]

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many press officers are employed by the Office of the Information Commissioner; [154683]

(2) how many press officers are employed by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority; [154680]

(3) how many press officers are employed by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. [154679]

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many press officers are employed by the Boundary Commission for England; [154659]

(2) how many press officers are employed by the Public Guardianship Office; [154660]

(3) how many press officers are employed by the Parole Board for England and Wales. [154661]

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many press officers are employed by the Legal Services Commission; [154435]

(2) how many press officers are employed by Criminal Justice Information Technology; [154427]

(3) how many press officers are employed by the National Archives. [154436]

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many press officers are employed by the Boundary Commission for Wales; [154469]

(2) how many press officers are employed by the Law Commission. [154462]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is in the following table.

	Press officers
Ministry of Justice	21
Boundary Commission for England	[1]0
Boundary Commission for Wales	[1]0
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	2
Criminal Justice Information Technology	[2]0
Her Majesty's Courts Service	2
Her Majesty's Land Registry	2
Law Commission	[3]0
Legal Services Commission	4
National Archives	5
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	[2]0
Office of the Information Commissioner	[4]0
Parole Board	1
Public Guardianship Office	[2]0
Youth Justice Board	4

[1] The Boundary Commission for England or Wales have no dedicated press officers. However, press enquiries are dealt with by the general secretariat staff (primarily the Secretary to the Commission).

[2] Media relations are handled centrally by the Ministry of Justice Press Office.

[3] The Law Commission has a two-person communications team. It deals with press enquiries, the Commission's publicity and marketing, the Commission's website, and the publication of the Commission's reports and consultation papers.

[4] The Office of the Information Commissioner has used the equivalent of 21 days of contracted press officer time. The information requested has been provided by the Information Commissioner's Office, an independent body created by statute with responsibility for handling complaints made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been repealed; [149726]

(2) what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149727]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was launched on 9 May 2007 and took on all responsibilities of the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and for the National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform from the Home Office. The information requested across my Department's entire legislative responsibilities and for the last 10 years would necessitate considerable staff resource across the Department and so cannot be provided except at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155895]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007. It has no current plans for spending on advertising campaigns during 2007-08 so there are no costs relating to television, radio and print.

Its planned expenditure on integrated promotional campaigns through external public relations companies from 9 May 2007-31 March 2008 comprises:

£25,000 to increase understanding of the work of courts and their role in the justice system.

£12,500 for a public awareness campaign about the legal status of cohabitation.

£12,500 to publicise the Family Mediation Helpline.

£55,000 for a public awareness campaign on human rights.

£40,000 for a public awareness campaign on community orders.

It is likely that the Ministry will spend money relating to the Governance of Britain programme during 2007-08/2008-09, but no decisions on resources for this and for advertising and promotion on other issues have yet been made.

The Office of the Public Guardian is mounting a campaign to increase public awareness of the Mental Capacity Act. The campaign will comprise media engagement using a public relations consultancy and will cost approximately £30,000.

Plans for advertising and promotion by the Ministry of Justice for 2008-09 are not yet advanced enough to indicate spend.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 141-2W, on Departments: racial harassment, how many of the 79 formal disciplinary investigations conducted in relation to the Prison Service concerned allegations made by *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* other members of staff; and how many people have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed as a result of the 35 complaints that were upheld. [152819]

Mr. Hanson: The public sector Prison Service does not hold the information requested centrally in a format that would enable a detailed response to be provided.

From the information that is held on the central database, it is not clear if the individual making the allegation is a prisoner or a member of staff. It is also not possible to break the disciplinary outcome figures down any further as one investigation can involve a complaint being made against more than one person. In order to provide this information it would be necessary to recall and manually examine each individual report which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice following the implementation on 1 April 2007 of Section 145 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, what the total amount outstanding is of surcharge payments. [155814]

Maria Eagle: Pending the rollout of a new IT system, my Department introduced an interim system that captures the amount of victims surcharge receipts collected. Between April and August the Department accounted for £455,021 in receipts by this arrangement.

My Department does not currently hold statistical information that shows the number of victim surcharge impositions outstanding. Existing IT legacy systems do not allow any kind of national overview around numbers of individuals with fines, victim surcharge or other impositions.

Driving: Licences

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence under section 146(1) of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 since 1 January 2004. [156299]

Mr. Hanson: Although this disposal is meant to be recorded as part of court proceedings statistics, investigation shows that the data requested is not sufficiently well recorded to be given in this reply.

The Ministry of Justice has started a programme of work looking at the quality of existing data on court sentencing and how this might be improved.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of dependent drug users referred to a drug treatment and testing order or drug rehabilitation requirement successfully completed it in the latest period for which figures are available. [154060]

Bridget Prentice: Completion rates for Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) have risen from 28 per cent. in 2003 to 44 per cent. in 2006-07.

Elections: Young People

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to measure the effect of action taken to make democracy more accessible by *(a)* lowering the age of candidacy and *(b)* opening polling booths to accompanied minors in elections held in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland in 2007. [154308]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not carried out any specific monitoring of these new provisions. I am aware that a number of persons aged 18 to 20-years-old have stood as candidates, and some have been elected. Allowing young people and children to accompany voters in polling stations will give young people the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of the electoral process which will hopefully make them more likely to participate in future elections when they reach voting age.

Electronic Tagging: Life Imprisonment

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the nature was of the offence referred to on page 11 of the report on Satellite Tracking of Offenders for which an offender subject to satellite monitoring received a sentence of life imprisonment; and what the offender's name was. [155502]

Maria Eagle: The offender received a sentence of life imprisonment for rape and false imprisonment. The offender cannot be identified as this would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health of the victim and their family. Moreover, undertakings were given to all participating offenders involved in the satellite tracking pilots protecting their anonymity in the researching of the report.

Family Conciliation Services

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to require the parties in cases concerning the residence of children and contact arrangements with non-resident parents to attend a mediation assessment before commencing court proceedings. [156195]

Mr. Hanson: Parties applying for public funding under the Community Legal Service are already required to attend a meeting with a mediator to consider mediation.

The Government continue to encourage the greater use of family mediation but do not believe that it should be made compulsory or that all parties in disputes over child residence and contact should be required to attend a meeting to consider its use.

The Government will make changes to court rules and application forms to facilitate referrals to family mediation where the court considers this would be beneficial.

The Children and Adoption Act 2006 when fully implemented will enable the court to direct parties to attend a meeting to learn about mediation in cases where it considers this is appropriate.

Fines: Compensation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1453W, on fines: compensation, what views were expressed by the Magistrates' Association and Justices' Clerks' Society to his Department during the consultation. [154644]

Bridget Prentice: During the consultation the Magistrates' Association and the Justices' Clerks' Society were concerned about the operation of the scheme and its impact on judicial independence.

My Department worked with the Magistrates' Association and the Justices' Clerks' Society to address these concerns via the Criminal Enforcement Policy Advisory Group.

Following those discussions the Magistrates' Association and Justices' Clerks' Society issued guidance on the application of the Victims' Surcharge to magistrates through their members.

An internal audit on the operation of the Victims' Surcharge process within the courts is currently being undertaken and my officials will continue to work with the Magistrates' Association and the Justices' Clerks' Society on this matter.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1453W, on fines: compensation, what representations he has received on the victims' surcharge since inception; and if he will make a statement. [154754]

Maria Eagle: Representations have been received by the Home Office, the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, and the new Ministry of Justice, since the surcharge was brought into force on 1 April 2007 on offenders whose sentence included a fine. The following information is the total received to date and updates the information given in the letter of 15 August 2007 by my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) and my written answer of 16 July, *Official Report*, column 151W, a copy of which was placed in the Library of the House.

Members of Parliament forwarded to the Government 72 letters and emails from members of the public about the surcharge. Forty-five of these were from people identifying themselves as magistrates. Of these, one magistrate sent letters to five different MPs, and two magistrates wrote jointly to four different MPs. The Government also received a petition signed by 48 magistrates from the Calderdale (North and West Yorkshire) Magistrates' Bench.

The Government also received 13 letters directly from members of the public (eight of whom identified themselves as magistrates) and two letters from the Magistrates' Association.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 137W, on fixed penalties, how many penalty notices for disorder have not been processed where a victim may wish to seek compensation through the criminal courts. [156272]

Mr. Hanson: The police do not collect information on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) which were not processed because the victim sought compensation through the criminal courts. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform collect data only on the number of PNDs actually issued.

Fixed Penalties: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty notices for disorder were issued in Cambridgeshire in each year since their introduction, broken down by category of offence; and what percentage of money was collected in *(a)* each category and *(b)* total in each year. [153769]

Bridget Prentice: Data on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for all offences paid (and the percentage of money collected), contested in court, and unpaid PNDs registered as fines at court, in Cambridgeshire police force area are provided in the following tables. Data are provided for the years 2004 and 2005, equivalent data for 2006 will be available in autumn 2007.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued and the percentage of PNDS paid in full, fine registered, with cash values in Cambridgeshire police force area, by offence type 2004[1]

	PNDs issued		*Resolved by police*			*Resolved by HM courts service*		*Other outcome*[2]	
Offence code	*Number*	*Cash value (£)*	*Paid in full*	*Cash value (£)*	*Percentage of cash value recovered*	*Fine registered*	*Cash value (£)*[2]	*Number*	*Cash value (£)*
Higher tier offences (value £80)									
Wasting police time	3	240.00	2	160.00	67	1	120.00	0	0.00
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	108	8,640.00	57	4,560.00	53	50	6,000.00	1	80.00
Throwing fireworks	2	160.00	0	0.00	0	2	240.00	0	0.00
Drunk and disorderly	45	3,600.00	26	2,080.00	58	17	2,040.00	2	160.00
Criminal Damage (under £500)	9	720.00	7	560.00	78	2	240.00	0	0.0
Theft (retail under £200)	6	480.00	5	400.00	83	1	120.00	0	0.00
Lower tier offences (value £40 January to October 2004; £50 November December 2004)									
Drunk and Disorderly	144	7,070.00	81	4,000.00	57	62	4,530.00	1	50.00
Trespassing on a railway	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	1	75.00	0	0.00
Drunk in a highway	34	1,540.00	26	1,190.00	77	8	525.00	0	0.00
Depositing and leaving litter	7	333.00	2	90.00	27	5	360.00	0	0.00

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued and the percentage of PNDS paid in full, fine registered, with cash values in Cambridgeshire police force area, by offence type 2004[1]

	PNDs issued		Resolved by police			Resolved by HM courts service		Other outcome[3]	
Offence code	Number	Cash value (£)	Paid in full	Cash value (£)	Percentage of cash value recovered	Fine registered	Cash value (£)[2]	Number	Cash value (£)
Total all offences	359	22,830.00	206	13,040.00	57	149	14,250.00	4	290.00

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it Is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Includes the additional 50 per cent. of the value of the original PND, when they are fine registered at the courts.
[3] Includes PNDs contested at court, cancelled and PNDs which were not reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform as resolved at the time of data submission
Source:
RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued and the percentage of PNDS paid in full, fine registered, with cash values in Cambridgeshire police force area, by offence type 2005[1]

	PNDs issued		Resolved by police			Resolved by HM courts service		Other outcome[3]	
Offence description	Number	Cash value (£)	Paid in full	Cash value (£)	Percentage of cash value recovered	Fine registered	Cash value (£)[2]	Number	Cash value (£)
Higher tier offences (value £80)									
Wasting police time	6	480.00	4	320.00	67	2	160.00	0	0.00
Misuse of public telecommunications system	1	80.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	1	80.00
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	275	22,000.00	180	14,400.00	65	84	6,720.00	11	880.00
Throwing fireworks	2	160.00	1	80.00	50	1	80.00	0	0.00
Drunk and disorderly	357	28,560.00	218	17,440.00	61	125	10,000.00	14	1,120.00
Sale of alcohol to under 18	11	880.00	11	880.00	100	0	0.00	0	0.00
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18	2	160.00	2	160.00	100	0	0.00	0	0.00
Criminal Damage (under £500)	107	8,560.00	72	5,760.00	67	31	2,480.00	4	320.00
Theft (retail under £200)	148	11,840.00	85	6,800.00	57	59	4,720.00	4	320.00
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	1	80.00	0	0.00	0	1	80.00	0	0.00
Lower tier offences (value £50)									
Drunk in a highway	90	4,500.00	54	2,700.00	60	33	1,650.00	3	150.00
Consumption of alcohol In public place	41	2,050.00	10	500.00	24	30	1,500.00	1	50.00
Depositing and leaving litter	4	200.00	2	100.00	50	1	50.00	1	50.00
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on licensed premises	1	50.00	1	50.00	100	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total all offences	1,046	79,600.00	640	49,190.00	62	367	27,440.00	39	2,970.00

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it Is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Includes the additional 50 per cent. of the value of the original PND, when they are fine registered at the courts.
[3] Includes PNDs contested at court, cancelled and PNDs which were not reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform as resolved at the time of data submission
Source:
RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Foreigners: Prisoners

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals were imprisoned in each of the last five years in England and Wales. [153312]

Bridget Prentice: The figures requested are in the following table:

Immediate custodial sentenced receptions into prison establishments 2001-05

	British nationals	Foreign nationals	Unrecorded nationality	Total
2001	84,217	6,026	280	90,523
2002	86,114	7,018	483	93,615
2003	84,251	7,482	512	92,245

Immediate custodial sentenced receptions into prison establishments 2001-05

	British nationals	Foreign nationals	Unrecorded nationality	Total
2004	84,579	8,355	392	93,326
2005	80,418	9,612	384	90,414

The figures provided in this table are for the number of sentenced receptions into prison establishments in England and Wales in each of the years in question and not the total prison population held in each of the years. The word "imprisoned" is taken to mean the numbers placed in prison under sentence during the 12-month period in each year, not the total numbers held in prison (including prisoners on remand and non-criminal prisoners), which would be answered by prison population figures[1].

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] The figures provided should not be interpreted or used to reflect totals for prison population or total prison capacity.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign former prisoners were housed in young offender institutions on 20 July 2007. [154026]

Mr. Hanson: Comprehensive data in the form necessary to answer the question is not available on the electronic case management system. The information would need to be gathered from the paper files held on each prisoner and this would involve disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was in 2006-07 of providing free telephone calls to foreign national prisoners. [155723]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners, whether UK citizens or foreign nationals, with close family living abroad receive a free five minute phone call once a month if they have not had a social visit in the preceding period. There is no centrally held information about the cost of free calls nor locally of the breakdown between UK citizens and foreign nationals. Therefore, it is not possible to provide this information. Each establishment pays for such calls from their local budget, and costs are dependent on the number of eligible prisoners as well as the country they wish to call.

House of Lords: Reform

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with cabinet colleagues on proposals for legislative reform of the House of Lords. [156074]

Mr. Straw: I will reply to the hon. Gentleman as soon as possible.

Human Trafficking

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many safe houses there are in the UK for victims of human trafficking; and how many trafficking victims these safe houses accommodated in each of the last five years. [155302]

Maria Eagle: The Government have funded the Poppy project to provide support to adult women trafficked for sexual exploitation since 2003. Poppy has 35 bed-spaces across London and an outreach service. The project accepts referrals from across the United Kingdom. Women who apply for asylum continue to be supported by the project but are accommodated through Asylum Support. Additionally, there are a number of independently funded voluntary organisations that are able to accommodate and support victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The following table details the number of women supported through the Poppy project in the last five years. Information on the number of women supported by the independently funded voluntary organisations is not held centrally.

	Support and accommodation	Outreach support
2007 (January to August)	43	57
2006	40	9
2005	34	1
2004	25	8
2003	25	12

Judicial Communications Office for England and Wales: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many press officers are employed by the Judicial Communications Office for England and Wales. [154434]

Bridget Prentice: The Judicial Communications Office for England and Wales has two press officer posts. The junior appointment is a job-share.

Legal Aid

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of legal aid has been since 1997; how much has been spent on legal aid in each year since 1997; and how many hours of legal aid work have been provided in each such year. [155449]

Maria Eagle: The expenditure on legal aid in cash terms during each of the financial years since 1997-98 is set out in the following table.

	£ million
1997-98	1,525
1998-99	1,623
1999-2000	1,551
2000-01	1,664
2001-02	1,716
2002-03	1,909
2003-04	2,077
2004-05	2,038
2005-06	2,028
2006-07	1,980

Legal aid is paid at a wide range of different rates reflecting the variety of cases funded under different schemes within the Criminal Defence Service (CDS) and Community Legal Service (CLS). Details of the

rates currently payable for the various categories of legal aid are available on the Legal Services Commission's website.

It is not possible to state the number of hours of legal aid work carried out in each year since 1997, as this is not centrally recorded. By January 2008 the vast majority of legal aid work will be remunerated on a 'per case' basis rather than by the hour, reflecting the progressive extension of fixed and graduated fees over recent years.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 270W, what the Department's estimated timescales are for the completion of the procedures referred to with *(a)* Jamaica, *(b)* Nigeria and *(c)* Pakistan. [154189]

Bridget Prentice: The United Kingdom has concluded prisoner transfer agreements with both Jamaica and Pakistan. The Agreement with Jamaica was signed in London on 26 June 2007; the Agreement with Pakistan was signed in Islamabad on 24 August 2007. Before these agreements come to force each country must complete their respective constitutional procedures.

In the United Kingdom this means that the text of the agreements must be laid before Parliament for 21 consecutive sitting days. It is intended that the Agreements with Jamaica and with Pakistan will be laid before Parliament when it reassembles after the summer recess.

Jamaica has not yet completed changes to its domestic legislation but UK officials in Kingston are following up progress with the Jamaican Ministry of National Security and the Attorney-General's Office.

The Agreement with Pakistan has only recently been signed. We do not yet know what domestic procedures are necessary to enable the Pakistani Government to ratify it. The British High Commission will take this forward with the Pakistani Government.

Negotiations with Nigeria are ongoing. It is not possible to say when they will be concluded.

Parc Prison

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if the Minister with responsibility for prisons will meet the hon. Member for Bridgend and a group of interested parties to discuss the case for a footpath to be built from the A4061 to Parc Prison. [154085]

Mr. Hanson: I have arranged for my hon. Friend and interested parties to meet with prison representatives of HMP YOI Parc to discuss the case for a footpath to be built. A representative of HMP YOI Parc will contact my hon. Friend's constituency office to arrange this.

Parole

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost implications of the Court of Appeal ruling that prisoners should be compensated when they are detained beyond the date on which they are eligible for parole; what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners who may fall within the terms of this ruling, broken down by period of detention beyond eligibility for parole; what steps he is taking to ensure that HM Prison Service ends this practice; and if he will make a statement. [154342]

Mr. Hanson: Her Majesty's Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts 2006-2007 details parole performance for the fiscal year 2006-07. Of those prisoners awarded parole, only 3 per cent. were subject to late release due to administrative delays. This is lower than in previous years and the Government are committed to ensuring that no prisoner is detained in prison beyond their parole eligibility date due to administrative delays.

Personal Records: USA

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the Passenger Name Record system and the agreement with the US for the handing over of personal data; what restraints or limitations of use or storage of such data *(a)* are binding under the agreement and *(b)* are expected by the agreement but are not binding; and if he will make a statement. [156065]

Mr. Hanson: The European Union, on 23 July 2007, and the United States of America, on 26 July 2007, signed an agreement on the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data by air carriers to US authorities. The new agreement, which is binding, is in three parts:

(i) an agreement signed by both parties;

(ii) a letter which the US sent to the EU in which it sets out assurances about how the US handles the collection, use and storage of EU PNR data; and

(iii) a letter from the EU to the US acknowledging receipt of the assurances and confirming that it considers the level of protection of EU PNR data in the US as adequate.

The main features of the agreement and the accompanying letter are:

The purposes for the transfers are unchanged and are for preventing and combating (1) terrorism and related crimes; (2) other serious crimes, including organised crime, that are transnational in nature; and (3) flights from warrants or custody for crimes described above. PNR may be used where necessary for the protection of the vital interests of the data subject or other persons, or in any criminal judicial proceedings, or as otherwise required by law.

Data will be retained for seven years in an operational status and for a further eight years in a non-operational status. The new agreement imposes stringent conditions that it may be accessed only with the approval of a senior DHS official designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security and only in response to an identifiable case, threat or risk.

Sensitive personal data will be filtered out and will not be used by the DHS, except in exceptional cases where life is at risk. The DHS will maintain a log of any access to sensitive data and will inform the European Commission normally within 48 hours.

The Government believe that this agreement balances the need to prevent and combat crime with the need to provide data protection safeguards for UK passengers.

A copy of the agreement and the exchange of letters was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 4 August 2007.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average total certified normal accommodation was of the prison estate in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [154784]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the average in use certified normal accommodation (CNA) of the prison estate in England and Wales for each year since 1997.

	In use CNA
1997	56,411
1998	61,439
1999	62,266
2000	63,245
2001	63,780
2002	64,158
2003	66,022
2004	67,678
2005	69,090
2006	70,658
2007 (as at 31 July)	71,247

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of spare capacity in the prison system; what plans he has to build new prisons; and if he will make a statement. [156213]

Mr. Hanson: The Government will ensure that there are sufficient prison places for those serious and dangerous offenders who ought to be in prison. The National Offender Management Service continues to investigate options for providing further increases in capacity. A programme to deliver 8,000 new prison places by 2012 was announced in July 2006, to be provided both in new prisons and by expansion at existing prisons.

A further 1,500 places were announced on 19 June 2007. Work started immediately on 500 of the extra places, the first of which will come into use in January 2008. The composition of the further 1,000 places will be decided in the light of Lord Carter's forthcoming report into the long-term future of the prison estate and the supply and demand of prison places.

The National Offender Management Service is closely monitoring the prison population and spare capacity in the system.

We are reviewing the basis by which the current spare capacity is calculated and will make a further statement shortly.

Prison Accommodation: Cardiff

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times facilities in Cardiff court buildings have been used to house prisoners overnight in each month in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [156287]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners were held overnight in court cells in Cardiff on 11-12 June 2007. This is the only occasion on which prisoners were held overnight in court cells in Wales during 2007.

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service recommended a member of staff to receive required hours allowance in each of the years that he occupied the role of *(a)* Deputy Director General and *(b)* Director of Operations; what reasons were provided for receipt of the allowance in each case; and if he will make a statement. [153680]

Maria Eagle: The Director of Operations recommended that one member of his staff be paid required hours allowance. This was to reflect the individual's role as a duty officer in support of the Incident Command Suite and was in line with arrangements for other duty officers. There have been no other recommendations made during his tenure as Director of Operations or Deputy Director General.

Prison Service: Public Appointments

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many promotion and selection boards the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service sat in each of the years that he occupied the role of *(a)* Deputy Director General and *(b)* Director of Operations; and if he will make a statement. [153675]

Maria Eagle: The current Deputy Director General sat on the following boards as Director of Operations:

	Board
11 April 2003	Eastern Area Manager post
3 November 2003	Thames Valley, Hampshire and IoW Area Manager post
14 November 2003	Head of Personnel Management Group
	Head of Juveniles Group
30 June 2004	London Area Manager post
9 September 2004	Head of Performance Delivery post (Operations Directorate)
11 July 2005	West Midlands Area Manager post
11 July 2005	South West Area Manager post
12 July 2005	Casework Manager post (Operations Directorate)
3 March 2006	Budget Manager post (Operations Directorate)
2 August 2006	North East Area Manager post

On the following board commenced as Director of Operations and concluded as Deputy Director Genera (DDG):

16 November 2006/6 December 2006—Yorkshire Area Manager post

On the following board as DDG:

6 March 2007—Head of Women and Young Peoples Group

9 May 2007—HR Director post

Prisoners Release: Housing

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of prisoners discharged at the end of their sentence *(a)* went into temporary accommodation and *(b)* were of no fixed abode in the most recent period for which figures are available. [156293]

Mr. Hanson: Data are currently collected on the percentage of prisoners who move on to settled accommodation on discharge from custody. Details of those in temporary or of no fixed abode are not collected. Between 1 April and 31 July 2007, 80.2 per cent. of discharged prisoners moved to settled accommodation.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of convicted criminals released through the early release scheme who go on to re-offend; what plans he has to review the operation of the early release scheme; and if he will make a statement. [156212]

Maria Eagle: The number of prisoners released under End of Custody Licence (ECL) conditions who have subsequently been recalled to prison for alleged re-offending in August is 30. This is based on those notifications to the National Offender Management Service received by the end of 21 September. The number of releases on ECL in August was 2,493.

These figures were published on the Ministry of Justice website on 28 September 2007.

ECL was introduced as a temporary measure and we will keep under review the length of time it will remain in use in the light of new prison capacity coming on stream and the review by Lord Carter. So far the data collected about ECL indicate that the scheme is working well.

Prisoners: Death

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 577-83W, how many of the deaths in prisons since 1997 took place in prisons that were classified as overcrowded; what assessment he has made of the effects of overcrowding on the number of deaths in prison; and if he will make a statement. [154154]

Bridget Prentice: The precise impact on prisoners of increased prison populations and their overcrowding, alongside other factors, is unclear. Cell-sharing can be a protective factor and overcrowding itself does not explain why there are self-inflicted deaths in prisons. Most significantly, a high proportion of prisoners arrive in prison with risk factors that we know increase the risk of them harming themselves, such as substance withdrawal, uncertainty and anxiety about their own cases, the impact of and adjustment to imprisonment, family concerns, a history of previous abuse or self-harm, and mental health issues.

However, managing very high numbers of prisoners can hinder efforts to reduce prisoner suicide rates. For example, by causing an increase in transfers between prisons, some prisoners being located further from home and family support, a possible reduction in the time staff can spend with individual prisoners on care and risk assessment, and an increase in the length of time prisoners are locked in their cells, rather than engaged in regime activities, association and other purposeful activity.

Prisoners: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners received regular methadone in the last 12 months; [156532]

(2) how many prisoners received prescribed Buprenorhine in the last 12 months; [156533]

(3) how many prisoners received prescribed Natraxone in the last 12 months. [156534]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally in the form requested.

Since April 2007, the Department has collected information on regular opioid prescriptions. These will predominately be methadone treatments, but may also include Buprenorphine. Prisons reported 4,458 such treatments from April to July 2007.

Prisoners: Mental Health Services

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the prevalence of mental health problems amongst prisoners aged 60 years and over; [155616]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of provision of health services in prisons for older prisoners; [155618]

(3) what assessment he has made of the health of older prisoners compared with *(a)* older people in general and *(b)* younger prisoners. [155619]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally.

A thematic review by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, 'No problems—Old and quiet: Older prisoners in England and Wales' (2004), examined the health care services available to older prisoners. It found that 85 per cent. of older male prisoners had one or more major illnesses documented in their medical records, and 83 per cent. reported at least one chronic condition. The most common documented illnesses were mental health issues and cardiovascular, musculo-skeletal and respiratory conditions.

A copy is available in the Library and on the Home Office website at:

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/thematic-reports1/hmp-thematic-older-04.pdf

The Department of Health will publish 'Pathways to Care for Older Offenders: A Toolkit for Good Practice' shortly. This good practice toolkit will help enable prison healthcare staff to develop services, backed by a formal, routine assessment process, that meet the health and social care needs of older offenders both during their stay in prison and following release back into the community. A copy will be placed in the Library.

Prisoners: Transport

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoner journeys in the south-west in relation to each prison were made by taxi or other private hire vehicle; and at what cost in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [154597]

(2) how much each prison in the south-west region spent on privately contracted transportation in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what proportion of this cost was represented by taxi or private hire journeys. [154598]

Maria Eagle: Accurate information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, as it would require a search through a very large number of invoices, and interrogation of a number of accounting codes.

Prisons: Elderly

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements he makes for the provision of healthcare services in prisons to take account of the particular needs of older prisoners. [155615]

Mr. Hanson: Since April 2006, commissioning responsibility for prison health services has been fully devolved to the national health service.

Primary care trusts work with prisons to assess the health care needs of their population, whatever their age, and develop services to meet those needs. Local partnership boards ensure that these are of an equivalent quality and range to that which the general public receives from the NHS.

Services for older prisoners should be made on the basis of the NHS National Service Framework for Older People—issued to all prisons under cover of a Prison Service Instruction in 2001. This requires staff to deliver comprehensive and well co-ordinated packages of care that meet the needs of older prisoners and ensure continuity of care for them on release.

An older prisoners action group has recently been established as part of the Care Services Improvement Partnerships health and social care in criminal justice programme. This will work to address the specific health and social care service inequalities for older offenders, including establishing national access protocols to services based on a common assessment of need.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the impact of prison overcrowding on the number of *(a)* prisoner suicides and self-inflicted injuries, *(b)* prisoner-on-prisoner and prisoner-on-prison officer assaults and *(c)* re-offending rates. [153917]

Bridget Prentice: The precise impact on prisoners of increased prison populations and their overcrowding, alongside other factors, is unclear. Cell-sharing can be a protective factor and overcrowding itself does not explain why there are self-inflicted deaths in prisons. Most significantly, a high proportion of prisoners arrive in prison with risk factors that we know increase the risk of them harming themselves, such as substance withdrawal, uncertainty and anxiety about their own cases, the impact of and adjustment to imprisonment, family concerns, a history of previous abuse or self-harm, and mental health issues.

However, managing very high numbers of prisoners can hinder efforts to reduce prisoner suicide rates. For example, by causing an increase in transfers between prisons, some prisoners being located further from home and family support, a possible reduction in the time staff can spend with individual prisoners on care and risk assessment, and an increase in the length of time prisoners are locked in their cells, rather than engaged in regime activities, association and other purposeful activity.

Similarly, there is no clear link between higher population levels and violence. For example, analysis of young offenders statistics, a prisoner group that can be associated with higher assault rates, has not been able to show any such link.

In respect of re-offending rates, the National Offender Management Service has not established a correlation between overcrowding and re-offending. Prison Service monitoring of the delivery of offending behaviour programmes has shown that less than 1 per cent. of those who started offending behaviour programmes in 2006-07 failed to complete them because of transfer, possibly indicating any increased prisoner transfers due to population levels or other factors are not hindering completion of offending behaviour programmes.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the self-inflicted deaths in prisons in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 to date occurred inside prisons that were classified as overcrowded. [154278]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	2006	*[1]2007*
Total self-inflicted deaths[2] in custody	67	58
Self-inflicted deaths that occurred in prisons where the number of prisoners held in one or more cells exceeded Certified Normal Accommodation	59	46

[1] up to and including 20 August only.

[2] Self-inflicted deaths include all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available (previously some 20 per cent. of these deaths have not received a suicide or open verdict at inquest).

Prisons: Visits

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison establishments the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service visited in each of the last 12 months; on which dates; to which prisons; which of these visits were *(a)* announced and *(b)* unannounced; and if he will make a statement. [153676]

Maria Eagle: The Deputy Director General has visited the following establishments in the last 12 months. All the visits were announced.

Date	Prison
12 September 2006	Askham Grange
19 September 2006	Sudbury
20 October 2006	Bedford
23 November 2006	Foston Hall
29 November 2006	Lancaster Farms
30 November 2006	Lancaster Castle
18 December 2006	Wormwood Scrubs
4 January 2007	Shepton Mallet
5 January 2007	Shrewsbury
7 March 2007	Buckley hall
8 March 2007	Stafford
8 June 2007	Gartree
22 June 2007	Wayland
26 July 2007	Holme House
1 August 2007	Kennet
22 August 2007	Dorchester
7 September 2007	Highpoint

Public Order Offences

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 267W, on public order offences, what data is available on the number of penalty notices for disorder issued in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007, broken down by (i) offence and (ii) police force area. [156271]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued in 2006, broken down as requested will be available in November, when the data are published.

Road Traffic Offences: Prisoners Release

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 800W, on road traffic offences: prisoners release, which of the releases for motoring offences between *(a)* 29 June and 5 July and *(b)* 6 July and 31 July, were for the offences of (i) causing death by dangerous driving under section 1, (ii) dangerous driving under section 2 and (iii) causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs under section 3a of the Road Traffic Act 1988. [156268]

Mr. Hanson: Data on the number of End of Custody Licence releases for the three specific sections of the Road Traffic Act 1998 are not collated centrally because the recording of offence details on prison IT systems is not sufficiently detailed. Collecting this information reliably to answer the question at the detailed level requested would involve collecting and checking data manually and therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Robbery: Sentencing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of convictions for robberies of personal property resulted in *(a)* custodial and *(b)* community sentences in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [154558]

Bridget Prentice: It is not possible to identify the number of convictions for personal robbery as court proceedings data do not differentiate between personal and commercial robberies.

The following table shows the number of convictions for "Robbery" in England and Wales in 1997 and 2005, as well as the number and percentage of community sentences and custodial sentences.

2006 data will be available in November 2007.

Number of defendants found guilty and sentenced for robbery with sentence breakdowns and percentages: England and Wales: 1997 and 2005[1,2]

Of those sentenced	1997	2005
Found guilty	5,589	7,083
Sentenced	5,597	7,139
Community sentence	1,307	2,539
Percentage	23	36
Immediate custody	4,008	4,407
Percentage	72	62

[1] Data provided on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Sentencing

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 441W, on sentencing, how many of the 173 offenders referred to maintain their innocence. [154201]

Bridget Prentice: Information on prisoners who maintain their innocence is not held centrally by the Pre-Release Section (PRS) in the National Offender Management Service, nor is it recorded on the Prison Service Inmate Information System. The information could be collected only at disproportionate cost by examining the individual case records of the 173 prisoners concerned. As the information requested is not recorded routinely it is unlikely that an examination of individual case files either by PRS or staff at the various prisons concerned would produce reliable or accurate information.

Denial of guilt itself is no bar to indeterminate sentence prisoners progressing through their sentences, or to ultimate release on licence. Prisoners may maintain their innocence for a wide variety of reasons and that stance may often change during sentence. Guidance on the management of life sentence prisoners who deny their guilt is contained in PSO 4700.

Sexual Offences: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of sexual offences against children in each year from 1980-81 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [153941]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of people convicted of sexual offences against children for the years 1995 to 2005 can be viewed in the following table.

Information for 1980 to 1994 is being gathered and I will write to the hon. Gentleman and place a copy in the Libraries of the House once available.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for sexual offences against children in England and Wales for the years 1995 to 2005[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Found guilty
1995	2,300
1996	2,599
1997	2,660
1998	2,557
1999	2,507
2000	2,286
2001	2,163
2002	2,284
2003	2,154
2004	2,399
2005	2,198

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] 128 offences have been used In this table and include sections of the following statutes: Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sexual Offences Act 1956, Sexual Offences Act 1956 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sexual Offences Act 1956 as amended by Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000, Sexual Offences Act 1956 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 1967.

[4] Some offences have been omitted as the vast majority of data will be against adults, and a minority will be against children.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Stamp Duties

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what records the Land Registry plans to collate on the number of house sale transactions that will receive the zero rate of stamp duty on zero carbon homes. [153977]

Bridget Prentice: Her Majesty's Land Registry does not collate data relating to stamp duty land tax including number of new zero carbon homes that will qualify for a stamp duty land tax relief, because this data will be collated by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs who are responsible for administering stamp duty land tax.

Supreme Court

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the costs of *(a)* setting up and *(b)* operating a supreme court; and what estimate he has made of the cost of continuing the appellate function of the House of Lords. [156651]

Maria Eagle: As announced on 14 June 2007 the estimated running costs of the UK supreme court is £12.3 million per annum at 2010-11 prices. The annual running cost includes a rental figure of £2.1 million per annum, increasing at a rate of 2.5 per cent. per annum. The rental figure covers the cost of the renovation and will be paid to Kier Group over a 30-year period.

There are additional set up costs of £5.9 million for the Ministry of Justice programme team over the five years of the implementation programme and £14.3 million for items such as Ministry of Justice professional adviser fees and the non-capital element of the fit-out costs including loose furniture, IT and library books.

As previously announced the running costs of the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords were estimated at £3.2 million per annum at 2004 prices. This figure excludes building and services costs as it is not possible to extract these specific sums from the overall running costs of the House of Lords.

Tribunal Services: Interpreters

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of interpreters for the Tribunals Service for the last 12 months. [154755]

Bridget Prentice: During 2006-07, £1.6 million was spent on interpreter services across the Tribunals Service.

Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the Youth Justice Board's Physical Control in Care Training Manual, December 2005. [154185]

Bridget Prentice: I will arrange to place a redacted copy of the manual in the Libraries of the House. The redaction is necessary in order to remove sensitive security information.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* alcohol-related and *(b)* drug-related deaths there were in London in each of the last five years. [154810]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 5 September 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) alcohol-related and (b) drug-related deaths there were in London in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (154810)

The attached table provides the number of deaths in each year in the London government office region with (a) an alcohol-related underlying cause, from 2001 to 2006, and (b) a drug-related poisoning underlying cause, from 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available in each case).

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related[1] or drug-related poisoning[2] underlying cause, London Government office region[3], 2001 to 2006[4]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Alcohol-related	*Drug-related*
2001	787	428
2002	832	335
2003	826	338
2004	758	342
2005	744	399
2006	824	—

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in Box 1 as follows.

[2] Figures on drag-related deaths relate to the number of deaths from poisoning with any drug or medicine (whether accidental or intentional) or certified as due to drug abuse or dependence. They do not include deaths which may be indirectly related to drug use, such as blood-borne viral infections or transport accidents. The causes of death categorised as drug-related were identified using the ICD-10 codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[4] Figures are for deaths to residents of London GOR, registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excluding K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Bank Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the value of deposits in dormant bank accounts in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the United Kingdom. [154453]

Kitty Ussher: The Government set out in their March consultation document that dormant accounts would include bank and building society accounts where there has been no customer-initiated activity for a period of at least 15 years. On this basis, an assessment by banks and building societies suggests that between £250 million and £350 million lies currently unclaimed in banks, and up to £150 million unclaimed in the building society sector. These figures are for the United Kingdom. There are no specific estimates for Scotland.

The banks and building societies have committed to a comprehensive recruiting exercise in advance of the introduction of an unclaimed assets scheme in the UK. This will build on existing arrangements to help customers to track down their accounts.

Bank Services: Domicile

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of UK-domiciled people with undeclared bank accounts abroad. [152912]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not have an estimate of the number of UK-domiciled people with undeclared bank accounts abroad.

Cash Dispensing: Yeovil

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce new, free ATMs in Yeovil constituency as part of the Working Group initiative to improve access in low income communities; and if he will make a statement. [154624]

Kitty Ussher: As announced by my predecessor on 19 June, excellent progress has been made towards the goal of providing over 600 new free ATMs across the 1,707 low income target areas identified by the ATM working group as lacking convenient access to free cash withdrawals. Yeovil constituency is not one of the target areas identified by the working group because no areas in Yeovil constituency were found to fall within the most deprived quartile of areas in the UK according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. However, Yeovil constituency currently has 61 free ATMs, according to LINK data.

Child Benefit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was underpaid in child benefit in each year since 1997. [154316]

Jane Kennedy: Child benefit is paid for each week of entitlement at a fixed weekly rate. The amount of child benefit paid is solely based on the number of children for whom the claimant is responsible.

All eligible claimants of child benefit receive this full weekly entitlement in respect of all eligible children.

Child Benefit: Overseas Residence

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on child benefits: overseas residence, whether all such cases are handled by a single centralised processing unit. [154058]

Jane Kennedy: All child benefit claims are processed centrally.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on child benefit: overseas residence, for what reason his Department does not hold information on the amount of child benefit and child tax credit paid in respect of children living abroad. [154326]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC collects and publishes a great deal of information on tax credits and child benefit and this is available on its website. The data collected and published are kept under review to ensure that the most helpful information is made available wherever possible.

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the Child Trust Fund in each year from 2007-08 to 2020-21 for which an estimate exists; and if he will make a statement. [154007]

Kitty Ussher: The information is as follows:

AME accruals—I refer the hon. Member to the reply he received from my hon. Friend Economic Secretary to the Treasury on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 542W, and to the reply he received from my right hon. Friend Secretary of State for Education and Skills on 17 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1112W.

Administration costs—I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2214W, to the hon. Member for Leeds, North-West (Greg Mulholland). Updated figures will be published later this year.

Clothing: China

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the value of garments manufactured in China that were imported into the UK from Bangladesh in the latest period for which figures are available. [154083]

Jane Kennedy: The value of garments that originated in China and were imported to the UK from Bangladesh in 2006 was £9,069,751.71.

This figure is based on declarations made to HM Revenue and Customs.

Council Tax: Education

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Toolkit (England) learning tools. [151312]

Jane Kennedy: These modules of the Council Tax Toolkit (England) have been placed in the Library.

Departments: Advertising

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148506]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's only advertising in the last 12 months has been for the purpose of staff recruitment. Posts are only advertised externally where suitable candidates are not expected to be available internally.

The Treasury takes advice from its contracted advertising agency for the most suitable media for each job. The contract was awarded in April 2007 following a competitive tender via the Catalist Framework.

The media used are regularly reviewed for their effectiveness in terms of the quality and quantity of applications generated.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consultants' contracts were terminated early in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and at what cost in each year. [154341]

Angela Eagle: This information requested is not centrally held and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on the use of tendering processes as part of the awarding of commercial contracts. [154035]

Angela Eagle: The Government's policy is to achieve value for money (vfm) in all their purchasing decisions. EU Procurement Directives provide the legal framework for public procurement. They set out the procedures which must be followed before awarding a contract when its value exceeds set thresholds. The EU rules reflect and reinforce the value for money focus of the Government's procurement policy.

Where a tender process is not subject to the Directives (e.g. below threshold), EU Treaty-based principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment, transparency, mutual recognition and proportionality apply and some degree of advertising, appropriate to the scale of the contract, is likely to be necessary to demonstrate transparency.

Departments: Debts

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of the financial remissions set out in the departmental annual report his Department made by *(a)* recoverable debts caused by official error, *(b)* recoverable debts not pursued on the grounds of value for money and *(c)* irrecoverable debts in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [154532]

Angela Eagle: Losses and special payments are subject to strict control procedures and notation arrangements as set out in "Government Accounting". The Treasury complies with those arrangements and reports losses in its Resource Accounts as necessary. A more detailed breakdown than that shown in the Resource Accounts could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Copies of the Resource Accounts can be found at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/resourceaccounts/

Departments: Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on Departments: Departmental reorganisation, what account his Department takes of the Information Commissioner's guidance that no internal review should take longer than 40 days; and how many requests for internal review have exceeded this deadline. [154087]

Angela Eagle: The Department strives to follow best practice guidance in regard to FOI handling including internal reviews. The Treasury has robust systems to ensure a thorough and independent assessment of the original decision.

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by the Bank of England. [154432]

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by National Savings and Investments. [154636]

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by the Royal Mint. [154721]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows.

Four press officers are employed by the Bank of England.

No press officers are employed by the Royal Mint.

Four press officers are employed by National Savings and Investments.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153177]

Angela Eagle: The number of press officers employed within the Chancellors Department as at 1 July 2007 is as outlined as follows:

	FTE
HM Treasury	8
Office of Government and Commerce	2
DMO	0.66

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 440W, on Departments: Legislation, which parts of the 60 Acts have not been brought into force. [154204]

Angela Eagle: The information, in relation to Acts other than Finance Acts, is in the table. Since 16 July 2007 one further Act has received Royal Assent, but is not yet in force (the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007).

In relation to the Finance Acts, this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Act	*Provisions not yet in force*
Financial Services and Markets Act 2000	Section 104 in relation to banking business transfer schemes
Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000	Section 11
	Sections 12 and 13 in relation to Wales
	Part of paragraph 24 of Schedule 1 (relating to provisions inserted in the Government of Wales Act 1998)
Tax Credits Act 2002	Sections 1(1) and 1(2) (otherwise than for the purposes of Part 3 in respect of tax credits)
	Sections 25(1), 25(2) (otherwise than for the purpose of making regulations)
	Sections 25(6), 25(7) (otherwise than for the purpose of making regulations) (repealed)

Departments: Lost Working Days

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average annual number of absent days per employee was in his Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997; what percentage of person-days were lost through absenteeism; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies was in each year. [153980]

Angela Eagle: Statistics on sickness absence of civil servants in Departments and agencies are published annually in 'Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service; available at the following website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/conditions%5Fof%5Fservice/publications/

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of staff responsible for *(a)* brand management and *(b)* marketing at (i) HM Revenue and Customs, (ii) his Department, (iii) the Office for National Statistics, (iv) the Debt Management Office, (v) the Royal Mint, (vi) the Office for Government Commerce, (vii) the Government Actuary's Department and (viii) the Valuation Office Agency in 2006-07. [153923]

Angela Eagle: Available Paybill costs in the financial year of 2006-07 were as follows:

	£000
HMRC	
Brand Management	390
Brand Management	750
ONS Brand Management and Marketing	400
Royal Mint	
Brand Management	77.7
Brand Management	820.7

The Treasury does not have a brand management or marketing team. Maintaining the Treasury's corporate identity is one of the roles of the Communications team.

Information relating to GAD, DMO, OGC and VOA is not readily available and could be provided at disproportionate cost only.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for *(a)* brand management and *(b)* marketing at (i) HM Revenue and Customs, (ii) his Department, (iii) the Office for National Statistics, (iv) the Debt Management Office, (v) the Royal Mint, (vi) the Office for Government Commerce, (vii) the Government Actuary's Department and (viii) the Valuation Office Agency. [153924]

Angela Eagle: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by HMRC, HMT, ONS, DMO, Royal Mint, OGC, GAD and the VOA for *(a)* brand management and *(b)* marketing are:

	Full-time equivalent staff
HMRC	7 for Brand Management 20.42 for Marketing
HM Treasury	The Treasury does not have a brand management or marketing team. Maintaining the Treasury's corporate identity is one of the roles of the Communications team.
Office for National Statistics	6.5
Debt Management Office	No figures provided
Royal Mint	1.25 for Brand Management 25.18 for Marketing
Office for Government Commerce	No figures provided
Government Actuary's Department	0.60 FTE for Brand Management 0.80 FTE for Marketing
Valuation Office Agency	16 staff work in the Valuation Office Agency's Communications team covering all aspects of internal and external communications including maintenance of the Agency's comprehensive public website. Team members are multi-disciplined and none are dedicated either to brand management or marketing.
NS&I	No response required not included in the scope of this question.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* his Department, *(c)* the Office for National Statistics, *(d)* the Debt Management Office, *(e)* the Royal Mint, *(f)* the Office for Government Commerce, *(g)* the Government Actuary's Department and *(h)* the Valuation Office Agency spent on (i) stationery, (ii) business cards and (iii) building signs in each year since 1997. [153929]

Angela Eagle: The following information is available without incurring disproportionate cost. All figures are presented in thousands, including irrecoverable VAT.

Department/agency	*£000*
HM Revenue and Customs	
2006-07	13,907
2005-06[1]	16,262
2004-05	15,865
2003-04	18,767
2002-03	18,518
2001-02	12,910
2000-01[2]	12,003
HM Treasury	
2006-07	289
2005-06	258
2004-05	264
2003-04	308
2002-03	363
Office for National Statistics	
2006-07	2,410
2005-06	1,870
2004-05	1,850
2003-04	1,624
2002-03	1,635
2001-02	1,329
2000-01	1,633
1999-2000	1,490
1998-99	n/a
1997-98	n/a

Department/agency	£000
Debt Management Office	
2006-07	16
2005-06	17
2004-05	23
2003-04	17
2002-03	23
Royal Mint	
2006-07	35
2005-06	34
2004-05	55
2003-04	66
2002-03	52
2001-02	49
2000-01	75
1999-2000	81
1998-99	62
1997-98	77
Office of Government Commerce	
2006-07	82
2005-06	83
2004-05	101
2003-04	103
2002-03	115
2001-02	173
2000-01	191
Government Actuary's Department	
2006-07	42
2005-06	32
2004-05	26
2003-04	26
Valuation Office Agency	
2006-07	422
2005-06	474
2004-05	696
2003-04	626
2002-03	573
2001-02	596

[1] Figures for the years up to 2005-06 are an aggregation of the former Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise.
[2] Figures from the former Inland Revenue are for 19 October 2000 to 31 March 2001 only.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated cost of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines is. [153930]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the cost of complying with corporate identity guidelines are not held and could not meaningfully be performed without incurring disproportionate costs. The following information is available on the estimated costs of producing guidelines. Copies of the relevant guidelines have been laid in the Library of the House.

HM Treasury

HM Treasury's guidelines on corporate identity were produced internally, at minimal cost.

HM Revenue and Customs

The estimated cost of producing HM Revenue and Customs' style guide was £44,000.

Valuation Office Agency

The Valuation Office Agency's guidelines on corporate identity were produced internally, at minimal cost.

Royal Mint

The Royal Mint is introducing a new corporate identity and new guidelines for staff are expected to be available later this year. The estimated cost of producing the guidelines is £40,000.

Office for National Statistics

The Office for National Statistics has a set of guidelines for its corporate identity, produced in 1999-2000. The cost of producing them is not readily available and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

National Savings and Investments

The latest version of NS and I's corporate identity guidelines were produced in 2004 at an estimated cost of approximately £25,000.

Office of Government Commerce

The OGC design and web guidelines were produced in 2004 at a cost of £12,225.

OGCbuying.solutions

The cost of producing OGCbuying.solutions' product brand guidelines in 2004 was £9,000. Due to a change in accounting system, the cost of producing the corporate guidelines in February 2003 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Debt Management Office does not produce corporate identity guidelines.

Departments: Mass Media

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's evaluations of media coverage of departmental activities since May 2005. [153963]

Angela Eagle: No such evaluations have been undertaken.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* value and *(b)* number was of bonus payments made to staff at (i) HM Revenue and Customs, (ii) his Department, (iii) the Office for National Statistics, (iv) the Debt Management Office, (v) the Royal Mint, (vi) the Office for Government Commerce, (vii) the Government Actuary's Department and (viii) the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last five years. [153919]

Angela Eagle: The overall figures for, *(a)* the total value of bonuses paid to staff and *(b)* the total number of bonus payments made to staff for the departments/agencies requested, are set out in the following tables.

(1) Sum of bonus payments

	£ million
2006-07	21,519,239
2006-06	12,711,896
2004-05	15,043,525
2003-04	2,819,801
2002-03	1,124,639

(2) Number of payments

	Number of bonuses paid
2006-07	42,719
2006-06	37,170
2004-05	65,075
2003-04	5,110
2002-03	867

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* his Department, *(c)* the Office for National Statistics, *(d)* the Debt Management Office, *(e)* the Royal Mint, *(f)* the Office for Government Commerce, *(g)* the Government Actuary's Department and *(h)* the Valuation Office Agency spent on (i) sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and (ii) funding advertorials in newspapers and other publications in the last year for which figures are available. [153921]

Angela Eagle: In 2006-07, HM Revenue and Customs spent £5,488 on advertorials. None of the other bodies had any spending on sponsoring supplements or funding advertorials.

Departments: Resignations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1642W, on Departments: Resignations, what the *(a)* job and *(b)* team title was of the civil servants referred to. [147095]

Angela Eagle: The six resignations in May 2007 were from staff in the following directorates:

Directorate	Number of resignations
International and Finance	1
Ministerial and Corporate Services	1
Public Services and Growth	4

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on staff awaydays in the last 12 months. [153166]

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the 20 most expensive training courses provided to Ministers and civil servants in his Department were in 2006; and what the cost was of each per participant. [153918]

Angela Eagle: This information is not held centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what training courses were attended by staff from *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* his Department in each of the last three years; how many staff attended each course; and what the cost was of each course to his Department; [153922]

(2) how many days' training on average were provided to each member of staff at *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* his Department, *(c)* the Office for National Statistics, *(d)* the Debt Management Office, *(e)* the Royal Mint, *(f)* the Office for Government Commerce, *(g)* the Government Actuary's Department and *(h)* the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last five years. [153961]

Angela Eagle: The information is not held centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on training awaydays for staff of his Department and its agencies in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [153960]

Angela Eagle: Most Departments do not record the cost of awaydays separately from other training and development costs. The following information is available without incurring disproportionate costs.

£000

Department/ agency	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
National Savings and Investments	33	58	35
Office of National Statistics	25	22	23

The Treasury only started to record awayday costs separately in 2005-06, when initial data collection indicated spend of £54,000 on awaydays. Due to changes to the accounting system more accurately to capture spend on awaydays, including associated training, recorded spend in 2006-07 was £192,000. This figure is therefore not directly comparable to the previous year.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost was of visits abroad by staff in his Department and its agencies in 2006-07. [153962]

Angela Eagle: For details of spending on overseas visits in 2006-07 by staff and Ministers of HM Treasury I refer to the answer given by my hon. Friend the then Financial Secretary to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1186W. Information on spending on overseas visits is not separately identified in the accounting systems of National Savings and Investments or the Valuation Office Agency and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Details of spending by the other Departments and agencies is as follows:

2006-07

Department/agency	*£000*
Debt Management Office	17
Office of Government Commerce	75
OGCbuying.solutions	4
Royal Mint	316
Office for National Statistics	418
Government Actuary's Department	71
HM Revenue and Customs	1,949

Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on managing his Department and its agencies' corporate identities in each year since 1997-98. [153920]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him today to Question 153923, on the cost of brand management. In addition to those costs, the following information is available without incurring disproportionate cost:

the Office of Government Commerce spent £15,000 in 2004-05 and £19,000 in 2006-07 on re-branding;

the Office for National Statistics spent £122,000 in 2003-04 and £53,000 in 2004-05

the Government Actuary's Department spent £21,000 in 2001-02 and £38,000 in 2006-07 on design of new logos and changes to stationery and signage following changes to its corporate identity;

the Royal Mint spent £79,000 in 2006-07 in respect of a one off exercise to introduce a new corporate identity, and

National Savings and Investments have spent approximately £58,000 in each year since 2004.

For HMRC spending, I refer to the answer given on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, Column 836W.

Disabled: Employment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of disabled people were in work in each year since 1997. [154673]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the number and proportion of disabled people who were in work in each year since 1997. (154673)

The attached table shows the number and proportion of disabled people of working age who are in employment for the three months ending June each year from 1999 to 2007. The disability question was first asked in 1999. Comparable estimates are not available for 2000. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Disabled[1] people of working age[2] in employment: United Kingdom: not seasonally adjusted

In employment

Three months ending June each year	*Level (Thousand)*	*Rate (Percentage)*
1999	3,022	46
2001	3,139	47
2002	3,294	48
2003	3,362	49
2004	3,485	50
2005	3,477	50
2006	3,537	50
2007	3,456	50

[1] Includes those who have a long term disability which substantially limits their day-to-day activities and those who have a long term disability which affects the kind or amount of work they might do.
[2] Includes men aged 16 to 64 and women age 16 to 59.
[3] Disabled people in employment as a percentage of all disabled.
Note:
Comparable data are not available for 2000.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Domestic Rates: Northern Ireland

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net revenue from domestic rates in Northern Ireland was in each year since 1997-98; and what the estimated figures are in each case for 2007-08. [153805]

Angela Eagle: I understand that the information requested is obtainable from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, an agency within the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Sir David Varney's review of taxation policy and economic growth in Northern Ireland will review the new system of domestic rates and the policy for domestic rate revaluations. [153809]

Jane Kennedy: The published terms of reference for Sir David's review were

"To report on how current and future tax policy, including the tax changes in the Budget 2007, can support the sustainable growth of businesses and long-term investment in Northern Ireland."

Domicile: Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of its amnesty for offshore account holders based in the UK on the number of non-domicile tax claimants; and if he will make a statement. [153859]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC has no evidence to suggest that the Offshore Disclosure Arrangements have affected the number of non-domicile tax claimants. The arrangements, which enable offshore account holders who registered by 22 June deadline to disclose any liability not previously included in their tax returns, are not an 'amnesty' because full tax, interest and penalties are all payable.

Environmental Trusts

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he is taking to facilitate the release of monies deposited in Environmental Trust accounts originally earmarked under Entrust's categories C and CC for education and research; [154198]

(2) what total amount derived from landfill tax revenues is held in the largest 12 environmental trust accounts; [154199]

(3) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is taking to make the bank accounts of environmental trusts which receive landfill tax monies more accountable; [154200]

(4) how much remains unspent in Environmental Trust bank accounts unable to be released due to the withdrawal of the education and research C and CC categories. [154197]

Angela Eagle: Any contributions made before 1 April 2003 for spending on sustainable waste management (object C and CC) projects that had a written agreement in place committing those funds to a specific project prior to 1 April 2007 can still be spent on that project. If there was not a written agreement in place by 1 April 2007, the funds should be released for spending on other qualifying objects.

This policy has been clearly communicated by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Entrust to site operators and environmental bodies respectively.

Information provided by environmental bodies on their most recently submitted returns shows that the largest 12 environmental bodies held a total of approximately £97 million in their bank accounts at the end of the period in relation to contributions made under the Landfill Communities Fund. Environmental bodies must report to Entrust the amount of money held in their bank accounts relating to contributions made to them under the Landfill Communities Fund. Entrust verifies this information, according to risk, as part of its audit function. Entrust also provides quarterly reports to HMRC of contributions made and spent. HMRC keep a keen interest in the relationship between money contributed and spent.

Exchequer Secretary

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total estimated annual cost is of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space, *(d)* administrative support and *(e)* special advisers for the new Exchequer Secretary. [154699]

Angela Eagle: I draw the ministerial salary of a Parliamentary Under-Secretary. I have five members of staff in my private office. I have no special advisers. An estimate of the annual costs of my office space, administrative support and other expenses could be made only at disproportionate cost.

Financial Services Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by the Financial Services Authority. [154433]

Kitty Ussher: I understand that the Financial Services Authority has 10 press officers in total, including the head of department and two managers.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme: Information Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [154686]

Kitty Ussher: I understand that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) employed two full-time people who acted as press officers as at 1 April 2007.

Fiscal Liaison Officers

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fiscal liaison officers there were in each year since 2000, broken down by the location in which they were based; and if he will make a statement. [154492]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC currently employs a network of Fiscal Crime Liaison Officers, based overseas, with jurisdictional responsibility for some 48 countries. However, I cannot give details of the locations of HMRC Fiscal Crime Liaison Officers, as to do so could jeopardise current operations and potentially put the officers and their families at risk.

Fraud

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what evaluation he has made of the abuse of accommodation address agencies by perpetrators of fraud relating to *(a)* taxes, *(b)* customs and excise and *(c)* other criminal activity relating to the responsibilities of his Department. [156594]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC undertakes research to establish whether accommodation addresses are exploited by fraudsters that covers various areas of the Department's activities. However, providing a full analysis would require reference to current criminal casework and intelligence, which is not in the public interest.

Grandparents: Parental Responsibility

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of grandparents who undertake child care roles. [153993]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have not made an assessment of the contribution to the economy of grandparents who undertake child care roles.

HM Revenue and Customs: Contracts

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the review of external contracts at HM Revenue and Customs will report. [154288]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs is currently reviewing the two main strategic IT and Accommodation contracts, the ASPIRE and STEPS Contracts. The ASPIRE Review will be completed in March 2008. The STEPS Review will report internally in autumn 2007. HM Revenue and customs are not currently reviewing any other external contracts.

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer why HM Revenue and Customs has not replied to the letter of 6 June from the hon. Member for Aylesbury on the case of Mr. P. J. E. of Aylesbury concerning tax credit claims for his disabled son and daughter-in-law; and when HM Revenue and Customs expects to reply. [155170]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The hon. Member's constituent's tax credit award is affected by the administrative problem with certain claims-as detailed in my written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is in the process of writing to those claimants whose awards are affected. An HMRC official at the tax credit office telephoned the hon. Member's parliamentary office on 4 September 2007 with an update and an interim reply was issued on 14 September 2007.

HM Revenue and Customs: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by HM Revenue and Customs. [154136]

Jane Kennedy: The HM Revenue and Customs press office currently employs:

Head of Media

10 press officers serving the national media;

5 press officers engaged on communications strategy and planning; and

11 press officers throughout England, Scotland and Northern Ireland serving the regional media.

HM Revenue and Customs: Internet

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people downloaded HM Revenue and Customs podcasts in each month since their inception. [153982]

Jane Kennedy: The monthly downloads since April 2007 are as follows:

	Number
April	2,414
May	1,370
June	919
July	1,073

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of producing HM Revenue and Customs podcasts in each month since their inception. [153983]

Jane Kennedy: The total production cost of the two HMRC podcasts launched in April 2007 was £5,300 plus £927.50 VAT.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to measure the effectiveness of HM Revenue and Customs podcasts. [153984]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC carefully assesses the effectiveness of its podcasts by monitoring the number of downloads and customers who have registered for the subscription feed.

HM Revenue and Customs: Job Satisfaction

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of levels of staff satisfaction at HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [153988]

(2) what processes he has in place to measure staff satisfaction at HM Revenue and Customs. [153989]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC takes staff satisfaction very seriously. To monitor this it conducts a staff survey twice a year which questions a sample of its staff.

The results of the November 2006 staff survey is published on the HMRC internet at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/

The June 2007 staff survey results are currently being finalised.

HM Revenue and Customs: Operating Costs

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total running costs were of each of the offices of HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [153991]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs cannot supply the information requested as its provision would be at disproportionate cost.

HM Revenue and Customs: Productivity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what processes he has in place to measure staff productivity at HM Revenue and Customs. [153990]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC has a range of performance measures at individual, team and departmental levels which provide staff productivity information.

Housing: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the presence of double or treble glazing in a domestic dwelling may affect its capital valuation for valuation purposes by the Valuation Office Agency. [153806]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister for Local Government to my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 19 February 2007, *Official Report,*

column 504W, which sets out the position in respect of valuations carried out by the Valuation Office Agency for council tax purposes. For other capital valuations, the effect will depend upon the facts and circumstances of each case.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many neighbourhood geo-codes recorded by the Valuation Office Agency to assist with domestic valuation purposes there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [153810]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency (VGA) does not use the term "neighbourhood geo-code". However, when developing the Automated Valuation Model (AVM) for the postponed Council Tax Revaluation in England, the VOA divided the country into approximately 10,000 localities. The precise number cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost. AVM functionality was not used in the Revaluation in Wales.

Inland Revenue: Reviews

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department commissioned the review and report undertaken by Messrs Attwood (International Division) and Bishop (Large Business Office) of Inland Revenue in August 1999. [154040]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W.

Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 2163W, on lone parents, how many lone parents there were in each local authority at the 1981 Census, expressed as a proportion of the working age population, broken down by five year age cohort; [156252]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2163W, on lone parents, how many lone parents there were in each local authority, expressed as a proportion of the working age population, in each year for which figures are available, broken down by five year age cohorts. [156270]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 8 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking:

(a) how many lone parents there were in each local authority, expressed as a proportion of the working age population, in each year for which figures are available, broken down by five year age cohorts. (156270)

(b) how many lone parents there were in each local authority at the 1981 Census, expressed as a proportion of the working age population, broken down by five year age cohort. (156252)

I have been asked to reply in her absence.

Figures are provided for the 1981, 1991 and 2001 decennial censuses. As no published tables exist that provide the requested figures, the tables have been specially run and deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Manufacturing Industries: Manpower

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 September, *Official Report*, column 2163W, on Manufacturing Industries: Manpower, how many people were employed in the manufacturing industries, as a proportion of the working age population, in each local authority in each year for which figures are available, broken down by five year age cohorts. [156269]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 8 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the proportion of the working-age population employed in manufacturing industries in each local authority area. I am replying in her absence, (156269)

Tables giving the information requested have been placed in the House of Commons Library. The figures in the tables are estimates from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey, for the twelve months ending in March of each year from 1996 to 2007.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Paymaster General to reply to the letter dated 28 June 2007 from the hon. Member for Hyndburn on Ms M. Hartley-McGough. [153791]

Jane Kennedy: The chairman of HMRC replied to the hon. Member on 24 July 2007.

Office of Government Commerce: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by the Office of Government Commerce. [154122]

Angela Eagle: OGC currently has two press officer roles, providing media relations support for OGC itself and for OGC buying.solutions.

Office for National Statistics: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by the Office of National Statistics. [154129]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 5 September 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many press officers are employed by National Statistics. I am replying m her absence. (154129)

As at 30 July 2007, the Office for National Statistics employed 7 press officers.

Older Workers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* 50 to 55, *(b)* 55 to 60, *(c)* 60 to 65, *(d)* 65 to 70 and *(e)* over 70 years were in work in each year since 1997. [154674]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the number of people aged (a) 50 to 55, (b) 55 to 60, (c) 60 to 65, (d) 65 to 70 and (d) over 70 years were in work in each year since 1997. (154674)

The attached table gives the number of people aged (a) 50 to 54, (b) 55 to 59, (c) 60 to 64, (d) 65 to 69 and (d) over 70 years in employment for the three months ending June each year from 1997 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People in employment by age bands—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

		Age				
Three months ending June each year	*All 16+ employed*[1]	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70+*
1997	26,356	2,751	1,785	1,023	275	163
1999	26,876	2,995	1,946	1,017	304	158
2001	27,438	3,093	2,156	1,076	283	151
2002	27,617	2,986	2,358	1,086	314	164
2003	27,863	2,939	2,552	1,180	347	170
2004	28,024	2,902	2,603	1,243	366	183
2005	28,193	2,904	2,667	1,287	389	191
2006	28,339	2,934	2,688	1,384	425	198
2007	28,434	2,981	2,596	1,539	412	222

[1] Includes other age bands.

Note:
Comparable data are not available for 1998 and 2000.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

Personal Savings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the trend in the UK household savings ratio over the period 1997 to 2006; and if he will make a statement. [153925]

Kitty Ussher: HM Treasury continually monitors the level of household savings, and the implications for the wider economy are examined as part of the pre-Budget report and Budget forecasting process.

Since 1997 the Government have: introduced the Individual Saving Account (ISA) so that everyone has access to a tax-advantaged savings scheme; introduced the Child Trust Fund (CTF) so that in the future all children will enter adulthood with a financial asset regardless of family background, and piloted the Saving Gateway to explore ways in which matched funding can promote saving in lower income households.

PFI

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* aggregate gross value of the total expected cash payments under all current and approved future private finance initiative contracts and *(b)* estimated current capital value of all existing and future private finance initiative contracts is. [154285]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Projections of future cash payments under the private finance initiative were provided in Budget 2007 at table C19. This can be found on the HM Treasury website at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/2/bud07_c19.pdf

(b) The estimated capital value of signed PFI contracts can be found on the HM Treasury public website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_PFI_stats.cfm

The latest estimate of the capital value of unsigned PFI contracts at the preferred bidder stage can be found in table C18 of Budget 2007:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/C/8/bud07_chapterc_288.pdf

Plastics: Taxation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Government policy is on a *(a)* plastic bag and *(b)* chewing gum tax. [153819]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor continues to keep all taxes under review. The Government currently have no plans for a plastic bag tax or a chewing gum tax.

Public Participation: Elderly

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which groups are being consulted as part of his Department's review of the needs of over 85 year-olds. [154649]

Andy Burnham: As part of the long-term vision of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, the Government have consulted widely the implications of an ageing population on public services such as long-term care for the elderly. In addition to those listed, this work has benefited from the input of other groups with whom the Department of Health, the Department of Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Treasury have engaged on related issues.

Age Concern
Alzheimer's Society
Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations(ACEVO)
Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS)
Better Government for Older People (BGOP)
BUPA Care Home Services
Carer's UK
Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA)
Centre for Research in Primary and Community Care (University of Hertfordshire)
Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)
Continuing Care Conference (CCC)
Council and Care
Crossroads Association
Disability Rights Commission (DRC)
English Community Care Association (ECCA)
Essex County Council
General Social Care Council (GSCC)
Help the Aged
Housing Corporation
Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)
International Longevity Centre
Job Centre Plus
Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)
Kent County Council
Kings Fund
Local Government Association (LGA)
London Older People's Strategies Group (LOPSG)
London School of Economics
Long-Term Conditions Medical Alliance (LMCA)
Manchester City Council
National Care Homes Association
National Institute of Adult Continuing Learning (NIACE)
Personal Social Services Research Unit(PSSRU) (London School of Economics and University of Kent)
Parkinson's Disease Society
Princess Royal Trust for Carers
Registered Nursing Homes Association (RNHA)
Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
Social Care Workforce Research Unit- Kings College London
Social Work Research and Development Unit- University of York
Transforming Services with Older People
United Kingdom Care Association
University of Stirling (Department of Economics)

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 393W, on public sector pensions, when he will publish his latest estimate of the total liabilities of unfunded public service pension schemes as at 31 March 2006. [154018]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer my right hon. Friend the former Chief Secretary gave on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 393W.

A new estimate will be published in the autumn.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs front-line detection staff with primary responsibility for detecting illegal imports of products of animal origin were employed in each year since 2001-02. [153767]

Jane Kennedy: With the exception of certain technical specialists, all HMRC frontline detection staff are employed as multifunctional Customs staff with a responsibility to tackle a range of risks at the border, including dealing with products of animal origin (POAO). None of them are employed with primary responsibility for detecting illegal imports of products of animal origin.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls were received to the confidential hotline Customs Confidential in each year since 2000; how many resulted in charges being issued; and if he will make a statement. [154491]

Jane Kennedy: Statistics for HMRC's Customs Confidential Hotline are unavailable for the years 2000 to 2002. They are held for 2003 onwards and are:

	Calls received
2003	29,581
2004	23,728
2005	31,389
2006	37,950
2007 (to end of July)	22,309

It is not possible to identify the number of charges resulting from these calls. Prosecution is one among a range of options that HMRC may take in relation to intelligence derived from Customs Confidential. In cases that lead to prosecution the intelligence received through Customs Confidential may be a small part only of that used during the course of the investigation.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of HM Revenue and Customs cigarette seizures were of *(a)* counterfeit cigarettes and *(b)* contraband cigarettes, in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [154483]

(2) how many *(a)* counterfeit and *(b)* contraband cigarette seizures there were of (i) 0-250,000, (ii) 250,001-500,000, (iii) 500,001-750,000, (iv) 750,001-1,000,000, (v) 1,000,001-2,000,000, (vi) 2,000,001-3,000,000, (vii) 3,000,001-4,000,000, (viii) 4,000,001-5,000,000, (ix) 5,000,001-6,000,000 and (x) 6,000,001 or more cigarettes in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [154497]

Angela Eagle: The latest HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Annual Report, available on the HMRC website: www.hmrc.gov.uk covering the period 2001-02 to 2005-06, indicates that HMRC has seized more than 12 billion cigarettes since the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling Strategy was launched in 2000. Prior to 2002, HMRC did not estimate the proportion of counterfeit cigarettes seized.

From 2002 to 2004, data on seizures of cigarettes in quantities above 500,000 sticks, and from 2004, data on seizures in quantities above 250,000 sticks, are published in HMRC Annual Reports. No further breakdown of this information is available.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many confiscation orders concerning suspected illicit tobacco were *(a)* requested and *(b)* given in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [154484]

(2) how many people convicted of using their premises for the sale of unmarked tobacco products were fined in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [154487]

(3) how many people convicted of trading in illicit tobacco not bearing a UK duty-paid fiscal mark were *(a)* given a fine and *(b)* prohibited to sell tobacco products for up to six months in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [154488]

(4) how many people convicted of *(a)* tobacco smuggling and *(b)* handling smuggled tobacco were given a (i) fine, (ii) community sentence and (iii) custodial sentence in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [154489]

(5) what the average time was between seizure of suspected illicit tobacco and cigarettes and criminal charges being issued for *(a)* tobacco smuggling and *(b)* handling of smuggled tobacco in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [154501]

(6) how many *(a)* seizures, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for the use of premises for the sale of illicit tobacco in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [154502]

(7) how many *(a)* seizures, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for trading in illicit tobacco in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [154503]

(8) how many *(a)* seizures, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for the handling of smuggled tobacco in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [154504]

(9) how many *(a)* seizures, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for smuggling tobacco in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [154505]

Angela Eagle: High level data on tobacco seizures, numbers of people sentenced and the value of confiscation orders made are published in HM Revenue & Customs Annual Reports—available on the HMRC website: www.hmrc.gov.uk. The latest report contains details for years 2001-02 to 2005-06. However, the information is not collated and recorded in a way that would enable the level of detail requested to be identified.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many scanners were in operation as part of the national network of scanners to detect high volume tobacco and cigarette smuggling in freight containers in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [154490]

Angela Eagle: The Government take very seriously the detection of smuggled cigarettes and tobacco and the fleet of scanners has made a vitally important contribution to the success of the tobacco smuggling strategy. The number of scanners that have been in operation since 2000 is:

	Number
2000-01	3
2001-02	12
2002-03	12
2003-04	14
2004-05	14
2005-06	14
2006-07	14

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much hand-rolled tobacco bound for the UK was seized overseas by HM Revenue and Customs overseas officers and their host agencies in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [154493]

Angela Eagle: Figures for the amount of hand-rolling tobacco (HRT) seized overseas have not been routinely compiled and published to date. Most seizures of illicit shipments of HRT take place in he UK as the criminal activity normally involves the smuggling of product which has been purchased duty-paid in other member states. These seizure statistics are published in HM Revenue and Customs annual reports—available on the HMRC website:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

The last report contains details of such seizures from financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06, and indicates that more than 1,150 tonnes of HRT have been seized since the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling Strategy was launched.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many illegal cigarettes bound for the UK were seized overseas by HM Revenue and Customs overseas officers and their host agencies in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [154494]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs publishes its seizure statistics in its annual reports—available on the HMRC website:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

These statistics include details of the amount of seizures of illicit cigarettes made overseas as a result of HM Revenue and Customs overseas officers' engagement with their host agencies. The last report contained details of such seizures from financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06, indicating that HMRC has seized more than 12 billion cigarettes since the "Tackling Tobacco Smuggling Strategy" was launched in 2000.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what progress has been made in reaching the operational target for hand-rolled tobacco of reducing the size of the UK illicit market by 1,200 tonnes by 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [154495]

(2) how much was spent in each year on the publicity campaign launched in March 2000 to increase public awareness of tobacco smuggling; and if he will make a statement; [154498]

(3) how many people were employed to tackle tobacco smuggling in each year since 2000, broken down by job description; and if he will make a statement; [154499]

(4) how much was spent on tackling hand-rolled tobacco and cigarette smuggling communication campaigns in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [154506]

Angela Eagle: The most recent HM Revenue and Customs estimate of the size of the illicit market for hand-rolled tobacco (HRT) is for 2004-05. Estimates for 2000-01 to 2004-05 were published in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2006" by HMRC in December 2006 and is available in the House of Commons Library.

An assessment of the HRT illicit market share estimate for 2005-06 will be available at the pre-Budget report 2007.

The full-time equivalents (FYE) of staff employed to tackle tobacco smuggling for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are shown in the table. Figures for 2000-01 to 2004-05 are not available.

	Detection	*Investigation*	*Intelligence*	*Total*
2005-06	1,406	319	325	2,050
2006-07	1,545	278	297	2,120

HMRC have invested just over £5.1 million (excluding VAT) in media campaigns to support the anti-smuggling cigarette and hand-rolling tobacco strategies since March 2000. The spend by year was:

	Media spend (£)
2000-01	2,049,968
2001-02	865,772
2002-03	806,193
2003-04	672,449
2004-05	83,368
2005-06	556,382
2006-07	91,993

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* revenue loss, *(b)* illicit market share and *(c)* cross-border shopped share of the illicit hand-rolled tobacco market in each year from 2004; and if he will make a statement. [154496]

Angela Eagle: The estimated revenue loss to the Exchequer (duty plus VAT) from the consumption of hand-rolled tobacco supplied illicitly and from legitimate cross-border purchases and their respective market shares of total consumption for 2000-01 to 2004-05 are given in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2006" published by HMRC in December 2006, which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average time was taken to confirm or deny that seized *(a)* cigarettes and *(b)* hand-rolled tobacco was counterfeit before charges could be made in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [154500]

Angela Eagle: Since the measures requiring tobacco manufacturers to control their supply chains came into effect on 1 October 2006 the time taken to determine whether seizures of cigarettes or hand rolling tobacco notified to the tobacco manufacturers were counterfeit has been less than 30 days. Prior to this, the time taken varied but was rarely more than two months. The circumstances of each case determine what further action may be taken.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings his Department had with tobacco manufacturers to discuss tobacco smuggling in each year since 2000; what the dates were of the meetings; and if he will make a statement. [154507]

Angela Eagle: Contact with the main UK tobacco manufacturers and exchange of information has been a key part of the success of the tackling tobacco smuggling strategy. Officials of HM Revenue and Customs have met regularly and frequently with UK tobacco manufacturers in each year since 2000 to discuss tobacco smuggling and other issues.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the market share of illicit cigarettes of cross border marketing and smuggling in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [154533]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs estimates the market share of illicitly supplied cigarettes consumed in the UK and of cigarettes that have been legitimately cross-border shopped.

The estimated market share, and revenue loss to the Exchequer, of illicitly supplied and cross-border shopped cigarettes for 2000-01 to 2004-05 are given in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2006" published by HMRC in December 2006 and is available in the House of Commons Library.

Stamp Duties

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the timetable is for the introduction of the zero rate of stamp duty for zero carbon homes; [153802]

(2) what records *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency will collate on the number of house sale transactions that received the zero rate of stamp duty on zero carbon homes; [153803]

(3) what his Department's definition of a zero carbon residential dwelling is for the purposes of stamp duty. [153812]

Kitty Ussher: The draft regulations, which set out (among other matters) the definition of a new zero-carbon home for stamp duty land tax purposes, were circulated to the Public Bill Committee on the Finance Bill in May. The Treasury consulted interested stakeholders on these draft regulations in June and July. It is intended that draft regulations will be laid before Parliament in October under the affirmative procedure with a view to being approved by the House of Commons coming into force.

It is proposed that the tax relief will apply retrospectively to acquisitions of homes that met the criteria occurring from 1 October 2007, in line with the Government's Budget commitment.

The tax relief will be claimed using the stamp duty land tax return, which will contain a specific code for this tax relief. HM Revenue and Customs will therefore be able to monitor the number of claims for tax relief and the amount of relief given. HM Treasury will have access to this data in an aggregated form. The Valuation Office Agency has no plans to collate information in respect of the relief.

Tax Allowances: Small Businesses

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of small businesses which will benefit from the introduction of the new annual investment allowance in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [154284]

Jane Kennedy: The annual investment allowance (AIA) was introduced as part of the Budget 2007 business tax reforms. The AIA will benefit all those small businesses that make capital investments, regardless of their legal form. There are around 4.3 million small businesses, 2.1 million of which are estimated to be making capital investments. For 95 per cent. of these, the AIA will mean that all of their capital expenditure can be written off in the year of investment.

Tax Credit Act 2002

Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many breaches of section 18 of the Tax Credit Act 2002 have occurred since it came into force; and what sums of money were involved in each case. [155408]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* As set out in my statement of 25 July, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) estimate that 250,000 awards will need to be reviewed. HMRC estimate that around £20 million in recovered sums will need to be refunded in total.

Tax Credits

Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax credit has been reclaimed in each of the last five years; from how many individuals tax credits payments were reclaimed in each such year; and what estimate he has made of the amount to be reclaimed in 2007-08. [155409]

Jane Kennedy: For information on tax credit debt and recovery in years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to table 4, section 2, of the Comptroller and Auditor Generals Standard Report in the HM Revenue and Customs 2006-07 accounts, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrcaccounts2007.htm

Information on overpaid tax credit awards and debt recovery for 2006-07 and 2007-08 will be published in future annual reports.

Information on the number of individuals who have had their tax credit overpayment recovered is not available except at disproportionate cost.

An estimate of the recovery of overpaid tax credits in 2007-08 is not available.

Tax Evasion: Telephone Services

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the Tax Evasion Hotline cost to administer in each month since its inception; [153985]

(2) how many calls the Tax Evasion Hotline received in each month since its inception; [153986]

(3) what proportion of calls received by the Tax Evasion Hotline resulted in prosecutions for tax evasion in each month for which figures are available. [153987]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not currently have a separate record of the cost to administer the Tax Evasion Hotline in each month since its inception. These data could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The number of calls received by the Tax Evasion Hotline each month since its inception are detailed in the following table. HM Revenue and Customs advertising campaigns can significantly affect the volume of calls received in any month.

HM Revenue and Customs are unable to provide this information. The exemption at section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act on 'law enforcement' also provides an exemption from disclosure in respect of the proportion of calls received resulting in prosecution.

Calls received by the Tax Evasion Hotline

Month comm.	*Calls received*
1 October 2005	417
1 November 2005	4,913
1 December 2005	5,426

Calls received by the Tax Evasion Hotline

Month comm.	*Calls received*
1 January 2006	6,440
1 February 2006	11,244
1 March 2006	29,387
1 April 2006	11,148
1 May 2006	9,216
1 June 2006	8,554
1 July 2006	7,878
1 August 2006	7,965
1 September 2006	7,923
1 October 2006	7,088
1 November 2006	6,918
1 December 2006	4,540
1 January 2007	6,634
1 February 2007	7,597
1 March 2007	9,710
1 April 2007	7,218
1 May 2007	7,207

Taxation on Gambling

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the effective rate of tax is for bingo played in a licensed bingo premises; [154443]

(2) what the effective rate of tax is for player-to-player poker played in a casino; [154444]

(3) how much VAT was paid by licensed bingo clubs in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [154615]

(4) how much VAT was paid by casinos in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [154616]

Angela Eagle: Total VAT receipts are published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report 2007. It is not possible to give the breakdown requested. Player-to-player poker played in a casino is subject to VAT at the standard rate of 17.5 per cent. Duty is levied at 15 per cent. on gross profits from bingo and participation fees for mainstage bingo are subject to VAT at the standard rate. The casino and bingo industries are also subject to the usual taxes imposed on business.

Taxation: Overseas Residence

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will update the information contained in paragraphs 2.14 and 2.15 of the April 2003 background paper on reviewing residence and domicile rules in individual taxation for the most recent date for which the information is available. [145041]

Jane Kennedy: It is not possible to update these figures on a directly comparable basis due to changes in the methodology applied since the publication of the background paper. Specifically, whereas the figures set out in the background paper were based on a 10 per cent. sample of the self-assessment system, current data draws on all available self-assessment returns.

On that basis, data drawn from the 2005-06 self-assessment returns show that some 143,000 have a residence or domicile status which would enable them to benefit from the remittance basis of taxation. Of these, some 114,000 are non-domiciled residents, with the remainder being resident but not ordinarily resident.

The most recent analysis suggests that around 83,000 individuals completed an employment schedule with UK employment income of about £9.7 billion, giving an average annual employment income of just under £120,000. A smaller subset of 17,000 also returned foreign earnings totalling £900 million which were not remitted to the UK and therefore not liable to tax, giving an average foreign earnings figure of just over £50,000.

As the data contained in paragraph 2.15 of the background paper was the result of a one-off analytical exercise which has not been repeated, an update is therefore not available.

Terrorism: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of suspected terrorist funds frozen and then unfrozen was in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [153863]

Kitty Ussher: Since 2001, when the UN's terrorist asset freezing regime was established, 282 accounts totalling approximately £630,000 have been frozen in the UK. Approximately £25,000 has been unfrozen since 2002[1]. The Treasury does not publish a historic breakdown of frozen or unfrozen funds for each year, due to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information. However, we make quarterly statements to Parliament on the operation of the asset freezing regime.

[1] These figures include approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK and approximately $31,000 of unfrozen funds. This has been converted using current exchange rates. Future fluctuation in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

Trading Funds

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the economic review of trading funds will include a consultation process with public and private sector stakeholders. [154391]

Andy Burnham: We expect the experts commissioned to undertake the study to consult with all stakeholders they consider necessary to inform their work.

Valuation Office

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what data the Valuation Office Agency has purchased from the Landmark Information Group in the last five years; and for what purposes. [153807]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's Mineral Valuer provides advice to central Government Departments and public sector clients in respect of valuation issues arising from the re-development of contaminated or potentially contaminated and brownfield land.

The initial stage of the provision of such advice involves the collation of information from available record sources to establish the previous use history of the subject site.

The Agency procured the services of the Landmark Information Group as it considers their Enviro Check Report offers the Agency's clients the most efficient and cost-effective solution to the gathering of this information at this time.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has made representations to have access to the energy performance certificate register. [153808]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has not made any representations to have access to the energy performance certificate register.

Valuation Office Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers are employed by the Valuation Office Agency. [154421]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency employs two (full-time equivalent) people with press officer responsibilities.

Valuation Office: Vetting

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether staff of the Valuation Office Agency who undertake inspections of domestic dwellings for council tax valuation purposes are required to have *(a)* basic and *(b)* enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. [153804]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer that my right hon. Friend the former Paymaster General gave the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1036-37W.

Since April 2007, one in five of new staff has been subject to basic criminal record bureau checks in line with the HM Government baseline personnel security standards.

Water Charges: South West Region

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average proportion of household income spent on water bills in each county in the South West. [154767]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the average proportion of household income spent on water bills in each county in the South West. (154767)

Estimates of household expenditure and income are based on the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), which is based on a sample of approximately 7,000 households in the UK. Statistics on household expenditure are published in 'Family Spending', the latest edition of which was published on 18th January 2007 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=361). An analysis of the household income data collected in the EFS also appears in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income', the most recent analysis being published on 17th May 2007 (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits). The survey sample is not sufficiently large to allow reliable results to be produced for counties. However, using the data underlying these reports, estimates have been calculated of the proportion of household income spent on water bills in the South West region, compared to the UK as a whole.

In 2005/06, average household expenditure on water charges was £329 per year for the South West compared to £277 for the UK. In the same year, the average household disposable income in the South West of England was £25,197, compared to £26,039 for the UK as a whole. So the proportion of disposable household income spent on water bills was 1.3% in the South West and 1.1% for the UK as a whole.

Welfare Tax Credits

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government have written off in misplaced tax credits in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England in each year since their inception. [153631]

Jane Kennedy: The total value of disputed overpayments in the UK written off as a result of official error was around the following:

	Value (£ million)
2004-05	5.8
2005-06	180.0
2006-07	9.0

The value of disputed overpayments written off in 2005-06 was greater because HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) cleared a large number of cases from the first year of tax credits where error rates were much higher. HMRC details of the procedures adopted between April 2005 and 30 September 2005 were published in the Supplementary memorandum submitted by HMRC in the Treasury Select Commission's report: "The administration of tax credits: sixth report of session 2005-06: Volume 2 Oral and written evidence (page Ev193), House of Commons papers 811-II 2005-06".

The information requested is not available at county level or for England.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of people who were underpaid tax credits in 2005-06 were living on incomes of less than 60 per cent. of UK median earnings. [153981]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, information on the number of underpaid tax credit awards in 2005-06 by level of income used for calculating tax credit entitlement is available in Table 5 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Supplement on Payments in 2005-06", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants had their entitlements wrongly calculated in each year for which figures are available. [153992]

Jane Kennedy: Information on error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits can be found on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltax-credits/error-fraud.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the increase in the annual entitlement to tax credits as a result of increasing the income disregard from £2,500 to £25,000; what the margin of error is in that calculation; and if he will make a statement. [154621]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1472W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimates of the number of tax credit compliance staff have been made public since 1 March 2003; and if he will make a statement. [154622]

Jane Kennedy: Ministers and officials update Parliament on tax credit staffing numbers as necessary and these are on the record. For the most recent figures on compliance staff available, I refer the hon. Member to the Committee of the Public Accounts 22nd report, of Session 2006-07, on tax credits and specifically to the oral evidence by HMRC officials on 23 October 2006 given at question 80.

Welfare Tax Credits: Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms he has put in place to track the amount of tax credits paid erroneously to illegal immigrants. [153979]

Jane Kennedy: Persons subject to immigration control are not generally entitled to tax credits. This follows long standing Government policy. "Tackling Error and Fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" is available on the HMRC website. This document sets out what HMRC has been doing and will continue to do, to tackle error and fraud.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was overpaid in tax credits to deceased claimants in each of the last three years. [153965]

Jane Kennedy: Around £2 million was overpaid in tax credits in each of the last three years, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, where the award ceased due to the death of an applicant.

This can occur due to the time taken to notify HMRC of a death.

HMRC are currently exploring whether added flexibility could be built in to mitigate overpayments in the circumstance.

Welfare Tax Credits: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 62WS, on tax credit administration, how many awards HM Revenue and Customs will be reviewing from people living in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Orkney and Shetland in 2003-04 and 2004-05; and how many households in (i) Scotland and (ii) Orkney and Shetland will be contacted about their 2005-06 awards. [154059]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC will be reviewing approximately 16,000 awards in Scotland for 2003-04 and 2004-05, of which around 100 are in Orkney and Shetland.

Around 6,000 households in Scotland have been contacted about their 2005-06 awards, around 50 of which are in Orkney and Shetland.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the recourse available to inhabitants of Ascension Island under the Human Rights Act 1998; and if he will make a statement. [156157]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made a formal assessment of the application of the Human Rights Act 1998 to those who work and live on Ascension Island. It is a matter for the courts of St. Helena and dependencies to determine (under the English Law (Application) Ordinance and/or St. Helena Law (Application) Ordinance) whether UK Acts of Parliament should apply in these jurisdictions. However, the UK has extended the European Convention on Human Rights and the Right of Individual Petition to St. Helena and dependencies.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he or his Ministers plan to visit Ascension Island; and if he will make a statement. [156230]

Meg Munn: There are no plans for a ministerial visit to Ascension Island at present.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 248W, on Ascension Island, what the programme of information and education consisted of; what materials have been distributed on Ascension Island; what public meetings have been held; and if he will make a statement. [156251]

Meg Munn: The programme of information and education about the benefits of participation in the democratic process is ongoing. The Governor held open public meetings to discuss governance and democracy

issues in May and September. Public consultation, including an open meeting in May, has taken place on new draft entry control and harbours legislation. Public consultation has also taken place during 2007 on taxation reform, for which consultation papers were published and circulated. The Governor and the Ascension Island Administrator have consulted the Ascension Island Advisory Group on a number of issues, including policy on property and businesses.

Bermuda Housing Corporation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what public response was made by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Governor to the television broadcast of the Premier Ewart Brown of Bermuda on 1 June 2007 during which he criticised the Governor in relation to the Bermuda Housing Corporation investigation; and if he will make a statement. [155821]

Meg Munn: The Governor and the Premier issued a joint press statement on 7 June 2007 (available on the Government of Bermuda website, www.gov.bm). The Foreign and Commonwealth Office drew on this statement in answer to press inquiries.

Bermuda: Politics and Government

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what alterations to protocol were proposed by Dr. Ewart Brown, Premier of Bermuda, to the Governor, in June 2007, with regard to the future relationship between the holders of their respective offices; what response the UK Government have made; and if he will make a statement. [155820]

Meg Munn: We are unaware of any alterations to protocol proposed by Dr. Ewart Brown, Premier of Bermuda in June.

Bermuda: Territorial Waters

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* class of maritime craft, *(b)* numbers of craft and *(c)* numbers of personnel are maintained by the Government of Bermuda to ensure law enforcement and national security in and around the territorial waters of Bermuda; and if he will make a statement. [156333]

Meg Munn: We understand that the Bermuda Regiment currently has the following equipment in service: 23 ft Rigid Inflatable Boats and 17 ft Boston Whalers; the number of crafts are two Rigid Inflatable Boats and two Boston Whalers; and there are 16 part time soldiers in the Boat Troop.

The Bermuda Police Service currently has the following vessels in service: 27 ft Boston Whalers, 22 ft Boston Whalers, 24 ft Halmatic Rigid Hull Inflatables, 52 ft Austal Patrol Boat; the number of craft are two 27 ft and 22 ft Boston Whalers, two Halmatic Rigid Hull Inflatables and one Austal Patrol Boat; and there are 17 officers in the Marine Unit.

Bosnia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [155417]

David Miliband *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* We are concerned by the lack of political progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Elections in 2006 saw an increase in ethnic nationalist rhetoric. Since then, progress on the reform agenda has slowed. The priority is for BiH's leaders to reach agreement on police reform, a key condition for conclusion of BiH's Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU. Longer-term, constitutional reform will also be necessary for BiH to deliver effective governance for its citizens and carry out the reforms that the EU accession process will require. However, there has been little progress on either of these issues since the elections.

We fully support High Representative/EU Special Representative (EUSR) Miroslav Lajcak and appreciate his efforts to unblock key reforms since he took up office in July. We regularly express our concern about the lack of progress to BiH's leaders bilaterally, as well as through the EU and in conjunction with the Office of the High Representative/EUSR.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what response his Department has made to proposal of the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that Governors should be excluded from future meetings of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council; and if he will make a statement; [155818]

(2) which Chief Ministers of overseas territories have indicated their support for the idea that Governors should be excluded from future meetings of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council; and if he will make a statement. [155819]

Meg Munn: In advance of the November 2006 Overseas Territories Consultative Council, the Chief Ministers and equivalents of the British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands proposed that governors should not attend the meeting. My noble Friend the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, subsequently agreed with Chief Ministers that governors should attend the meeting to help the discussions on issues where they were particularly closely engaged in the territories, including law enforcement, international financial regulation and disaster management. A successful Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting was held on this basis.

Burma: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of heroin production in Myanmar. [156496]

Dr. Howells: The UK does not conduct an independent assessment of levels of heroin production in Burma. We rely on the internationally accepted reporting from the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) available at: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world_drug_report.html. According to their 2005 World Drugs Report it is estimated that 370 tons of heroin were produced in Burma in 2004. The UNODC did not provide figures for heroin production in Burma for 2005 or 2006.

Cayman Islands: Politics and Government

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs why the constitution of the Cayman Islands varies from other overseas territories of comparable size in that the Governor chairs the Cabinet and there is no premier or chief minister; and if he will make a statement. [155811]

Meg Munn: Each overseas territory constitution is different. The differences reflect the constitutional development of the territory at the time the constitution was agreed. The Cayman Islands constitution came into force in 1972.

In the Cayman Islands, the governor presides at meetings of the cabinet. This is the case in all other Caribbean overseas territories. In Bermuda, the Premier presides.

The office of Leader of Government Business was established by the Cayman Islands (Constitution) (Amendment) Order 2003 and the holder of this office performs a role similar to the Premier or Chief Minister in other overseas territories.

Chen Guangcheng

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Chinese Government on the assault in prison of Chen Guangcheng; and whether the Government are continuing to urge the Chinese Government to release him. [153463]

Meg Munn: We monitor the case of Chen Guangcheng very closely, and have raised his case repeatedly with the Chinese Government, both bilaterally and through the EU. Following reports that Mr. Guangcheng was beaten in Linyi prison on 16 June, the UK supported an EU demarche on his case on 2 July. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the case most recently during his visit to Beijing in August. We will continue to push for progress on his case at every available opportunity.

Colombia: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of cocaine production in Colombia. [156498]

Dr. Howells: The UK does not conduct an independent assessment of levels of cocaine production in Colombia. We rely on the internationally accepted reporting from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. According to their World Drugs Report 2007 available at: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world_drug_report.html, Colombian potential cocaine production in 2006 was estimated at 610 metric tons.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of political prisoners in Cuba. [154564]

Meg Munn: It is difficult to estimate the number of political prisoners in Cuba as the Cuban Government maintains tight control over such information. However, Amnesty International's 2007 report identifies at least 69 "prisoners of conscience" in Cuba and they are currently reviewing the cases of dozens of other prisoners who could also be considered prisoners of conscience see:

http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Americas/Cuba.

In a report dated 5 July 2007, the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCHRNR—a standard non-official source of human rights information in Cuba) documented 246 political prisoners. The CCHRNR has also reported that thousands of young Cubans are imprisoned on the charge of "peligrosidad predelictiva", which means they have not committed a crime but are considered likely to do so. More information on the human rights situation in Cuba can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2006 Annual Human Rights Report at:

www.fco.gov.uk/humanrights.

Cuba: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the prospect of democratic transition in Cuba. [154580]

Meg Munn: Last year's changes in the leadership in Cuba have not, so far, led to evidence of significant change in Cuban Government policy. UK policy continues to follow the 1996 EU Common Position, which aims to encourage a process of peaceful transition to pluralist democracy and respect for human rights in Cuba. As part of this policy, the UK/EU also continues to pursue constructive engagement with both the Cuban Government and all other sectors of Cuban society, including members of the opposition.

We remain concerned about the political situation in Cuba, which is a one-party state with considerable restrictions on fundamental human rights. We continue to press the Cuban authorities to respect these human rights, including political freedoms.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Cuba about *(a)* the release of political prisoners, *(b)* freedom of speech and *(c)* freedom of political expression. [154581]

Meg Munn: On 30 April 2007, my right. hon. Friend the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, expressed concern about political prisoners and other human rights issues during a meeting with Cuban Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Antonio Carricarte. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office raises human rights issues—including the release of political prisoners, freedom of speech and freedom of political expression—on a regular basis with the Cuban Government.

Departments: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what circumstances his Department awards contracts to outside organisations without undertaking a tendering process. [154034]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Occasionally and exceptionally competitive tendering is not possible due to the nature of the goods and services being purchased. Such circumstances might arise as a result of the following:

when equipment being purchased needs to be compatible with existing equipment;

when only one company or supplier is known to have the special technical competence required to provide the service;

to repair an item and only the original manufacturer can do so;

when a repeat order needs to be placed and the original supplier holds the tooling, artwork, designs;

in cases of extreme urgency—but not if it arises because of inadequate planning; and

for contracts which must be accompanied by special security measures or when the protection of the essential interests of the security of the United Kingdom require it.

All proposals of this nature to contract with a single source (i.e. without undertaking a tendering exercise) with an estimated value in excess of 1,000 need careful consideration and specific approval. The supporting case should at a minimum cover the following factors:

why the supplier concerned is the only possible supplier of our requirements;

what is the basis for believing that the supplier concerned will provide value for money? What comparisons have been made in this area;

what market research has been carried out to identify other potential suppliers. And with what result;

what is the full estimated value of the contract. What breakdown of costs is available; and

is the award of this contract likely to lead to further similar business being awarded to the same supplier without competition.

Where single source tendering is proposed for purchases which exceed £1,000, a single source justification form must be completed and include an assurance that value for money will be achieved and background information covering as a minimum the points above to support that assertion. Decisions on single source purchasing where the value of the requirement is between £1,000 and £5,000 may be made by the internal sponsor department although advice should be sought from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's procurement centre of excellence, Procurement Strategy Unit, as required.

Single source proposals in excess of £5,000 must be submitted for approval to the Procurement Strategy Unit. They must be considered by an official with specific delegated authority for single source action. Because of the risks, officers who are authorised to approve single source tenders are instructed to probe and challenge where necessary the justification for such action and record the reasons for their decision.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153600]

Meg Munn: 250 staff serving in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) at 30 September 2006 had declared a disability. This represents 4 per cent. of our total UK-based workforce. These figures include staff at Wilton Park Conference Centre and in FCO Services, both executive agencies of the FCO.

The latest published data records the disability status of civil servants in departments and agencies at 30 September 2006. It appears in "Civil Service Statistics 2006" at Table P. This document is produced by the Office for National Statistics and can be accessed from the following web-site addresses:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf.

Declaration of a disability is voluntary.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1054W, on departments: legislation, which *(a)* sections and *(b)* schedules of the specified acts have been (i) repealed and (ii) not brought into force. [154202]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No section or schedule of the two specified Acts has been brought into force.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153048]

Meg Munn: Between June 2006 and May 2007 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office paid £112,128.97 in legal costs in relation to employment tribunal claims.

Drugs

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK has made to initiatives to destroy drug-related crops by chemical spraying in foreign countries; and if he will make a survey. [156221]

Dr. Howells: The UK has not provided funding for the destruction of illicit drug crops by chemical spraying overseas.

We have, however, undertaken a jointly funded project with the Organisation of American States to study the environmental and health impacts of the chemicals used in the aerial eradication programme of the Colombian Government.

EC Reform: Treaties

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes from unanimity to other forms of decision-making would be enacted by the existing text of the proposed EU Reform Treaty. [155471]

David Miliband *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1468-69W.

Egypt: Religious Freedom

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will urge the Egyptian Government *(a)* to allow Christian converts from Muslim backgrounds to change their religion in their identity papers and *(b)* to remove completely the requirement for a person's religion to be stated in Egyptian identity documents. [154405]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned about the problems arising from Egyptian identity cards that allow one of only three religions to be listed on them, and are aware that it is very difficult for Christian converts to change their religion on their identity cards. We have raised this regularly with the Egyptian Government both through the European Union and bilaterally, the last occasion being in September 2007. We will continue to raise this matter.

Embassies: Official Cars

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cars are owned by UK embassies overseas, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* make and model of car; and what the annual budget was for (i) acquisition, (ii) running and (iii) maintenance of those cars in 2006-07. [154803]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The number of vehicles owned by our missions overseas is approximately 1,200 (current to the end of August 2007) and is constantly changing.

We are, however, unable to provide the information and breakdown that the hon. Member has requested because the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information centrally and it would it incur disproportionate cost to collate it.

Entry Clearances

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa applications have been refused in each of the last five years. [156487]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by the hon. Member can be found in the following table.

	Total applications	*Total refusals*	*Percentage refusals*
2006-07	2,753,078	515,084	19
2005-06	2,550,277	473,742	19
2004-05	2,544,352	483,457	19
2003-04	2,233,837	339,616	15.2
2002-03	1,941,910	249,830	12.9

Sources:
UKvisas Entry Clearance Statistics 2002-03; 2003-04; 2004-05; 2005-06
UKvisas Annual Report 2006-07

All UK entry clearance statistics are published on:
www.ukvisas.gov.uk

EU Countries: Arms Trade

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to seek changes to the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports to prevent its circumvention by the re-export of arms between third countries. [154336]

Dr. Howells: The UK has one of the most rigorous and transparent export licensing regimes in the world. All UK export licence applications are assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria on a case-by-case basis and will not be approved if the export contravenes the Criteria or other international commitments. Criterion Seven refers explicitly to

> "The existence of a risk that the equipment will be diverted within the buyer country or re-exported under undesirable conditions".

If the Government believe that there is a risk, then the application will be refused.

The Government are however, open-minded about the case for further enhancing export controls. On 18 June, the Government launched a review of the export control legislation introduced in 2004 under the Export Control Act 2002. This includes a public consultation that seeks comments on the impact and effectiveness of the legislation, and whether there is a need to change or enhance the controls further.

EU Reform: NATO

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the likely effect the EU Reform Treaty will have on the NATO alliance. [154254]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will remain the cornerstone of the UK's security policy, a key means of delivery for the UK's foreign and security policy objectives and the only organisation for collective defence in Europe.

The European Security and Defence Policy supports and complements NATO. The EU Reform Treaty text makes clear that NATO is

> "the foundation for the collective defence"

of its members and the instrument for implementing that commitment.

Gaza: Frontiers

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations his Department has made on returning EU observers to the Rafah border crossing; [154594]

(2) what recent representations the Government has made to Israel and Egypt on re-opening the Rafah border crossing. [154595]

Dr. Howells: Officials at our embassy in Cairo raised the issue of Palestinians stranded on the Gaza/Egypt border with Tareq Maaty, Egyptian Deputy Assistant Minister for Refugee and Consular Matters on 23 August. Mr. Maaty confirmed that following discussions the Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit had in Israel in late July, the vast majority of the 6,000 Palestinians stuck in the Sinai have now returned to Gaza via the Erez crossing. While Hamas still controls the Rafah crossing, Egypt, Israel and Palestinian President Abbas are unable to guarantee the security needed to reopen it. We continue to stress to the Israelis the importance of opening the crossings into Gaza.

We believe there is an urgent need to re-open the Rafah crossing. The 23 July the EU General Affairs External Relations Council called:

> "on all parties to work towards an opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza for both humanitarian and commercial flows. Karni and other crossings must be open on a regular and predictable basis, in view of reaching the transit volumes foreseen in the Agreement on Movement and Access. This is necessary to ensure the viability of the Palestinian economy and to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people, both in Gaza and in the west bank. It also underlines the need to re-open the Rafah crossing point and stands ready to resume the full activities of the EU Border Assistance Mission Rafah as soon as conditions allow".

Hina Jilani

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage Indonesia to allow *(a)* foreign journalists, *(b)* independent observers and *(c)* NGOs into West Papua. [156432]

Meg Munn: Officials at our Embassy in Jakarta visit Papua regularly and meet local officials, academics, journalists and non-governmental organisation (NGOs). We continue to encourage the Indonesian Government to allow access to Papua for media organisations. We are aware that the BBC correspondent based in Jakarta was given permission to visit Papua in September. We will continue to press the authorities to permit other journalists to visit.

Hina Jilani, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders was given permission to visit Papua in June. Access to Papua for developmental NGOs has improved significantly since the election of Governor Suebu in 2006 and a number of international NGOs and UN agencies have established representative offices in Jayapura.

Indonesia

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he and other Ministers from his Department have to visit Indonesia. [156470]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to visit Indonesia in the immediate future. I am considering making a visit to the region as part of my ministerial duties. My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East visited in April and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly visit Indonesia. The bilateral relationship between the UK and Indonesia is good, with strong political links. We work closely with the Indonesian Government on key areas of shared concern including counter terrorism, climate change and inter-faith.

Iran: Kidnapping

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iranian Government for information on the physical health and wellbeing of Iranian trade union leader Mansour Ossanlou, who was abducted in Tehran; and if he will call for his prompt release. [155934]

Dr. Howells: Mansour Ossanlou, President of the Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, has been arrested and detained several times over the last two years for his involvement in peaceful industrial action by the bus union. We, along with the EU, have serious concerns about Iran's commitment to uphold its international obligations with regard to freedom of expression, freedom of association and the right to form or join trade unions. We have therefore been monitoring Mr. Ossanlou's situation closely. We were extremely concerned at his forcible detention by unidentified assailants on 10 July. It has since been confirmed that he is being held in Evin Prison in Tehran and is being investigated for alleged distribution of propaganda against the regime. We understand that neither his family nor his lawyers have had full access to visit him in prison.

On 16 July I called in the Iranian ambassador to London to discuss human rights issues. I raised specific concerns about the treatment of Mr. Ossanlou, and urged Iran to ensure that he is treated well and in accordance with his rights. I highlighted that we consider his arrest to be a direct breach of Iran's commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In meetings with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 July and 1 September, the EU presidency also condemned Mr. Ossanlou's violent arrest and detention for peaceful actions in support of civil rights.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK policy is on the 21 August 2007 agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [155418]

David Miliband *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The agreement announced on 21 August between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) sets out a workplan for Iran to address outstanding issues concerning its past nuclear programme. If Iran implements it in full, it may prove to be a step towards

resolving the Iranian nuclear problem. But addressing the outstanding issues is only one of the steps the International Community requires Iran to take in order to restore confidence in its intentions. As the UN Security Council has unanimously demanded in Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747, and as the IAEA Board of Governors made clear in its Resolution GOV/2006/14 of February 2006, Iran also needs to implement fully the Additional Protocol and additional measures that the IAEA has requested, and to suspend enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. Until Iran meets these obligations we will continue to follow the dual track strategy agreed with our partners in the "E3+3" (China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States), and to discuss further measures aimed at persuading Iran to fulfil all its international obligations.

Iraq Constitution

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what help the UK Government are providing to secure the delivery of Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution. [155946]

Dr. Howells: Implementation of Article 140 is a matter for the Government of Iraq. We continue to encourage the Iraqi and Kurdish regional authorities to ensure that the Article 140 process is fair and transparent and reflects, so far as is possible, the views of each of the different communities involved.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 973W, on Iraq: armed forces, what changes were made to agreed plans as a result of the events referred to. [154016]

Dr. Howells: As I said in my response to my right hon. Friend on 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 973W, the detail of exchanges between the Government and the US Administration in 2003 remains confidential. Planning remained flexible throughout this period to take full account of developments on the ground.

Iraq: Elections

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects there to be new elections in Iraq. [156083]

Dr. Howells: Article 56 of the Iraqi constitution allows for elections for the Council of Representatives to be held 45 days preceding the conclusion of the Council of Representatives' four-calendar-year electoral term. The current electoral term began on 16 March 2006, the date of the first session of the present Council of Representatives. Elections should therefore be held on 30 January 2010.

The timing of the next round of provincial elections is subject to legislation being drafted by the Government of Iraq.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been paid to private military security companies in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan to protect (i) Foreign and Commonwealth Office personnel, (ii) other British Government personnel and (iii) British Government civilian and military infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [155060]

David Miliband *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The amounts paid to private security companies in Iraq and Afghanistan to protect Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Government personnel and Government civilian and military infrastructure are provided as follows.

	£
Iraq	192,000,000
Afghanistan	44,000,000

These payments relate to contracts put in place by the FCO and certain other Government Departments in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2003 and 2008.

Iraq: Religious Freedom

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will take steps to bring to justice those Islamic extremists responsible for the systematic intimidation and driving out of Christians from Dora district and the neighbourhoods of Al-Baya'a, Al-Thurat and Al-Saydia in Baghdad; and if he will make a statement. [154409]

Dr. Howells: Responsibility for investigating and prosecuting crimes committed in Iraq is the responsibility of the Iraqi security forces and judicial authorities. The Government remain deeply concerned about the high levels of violence which Iraqis, including Christians, are having to endure. We continue to raise this in our regular contacts with the Iraqi Government and to press for action to protect all Iraqis. We understand that the Iraqi authorities, with the backing of coalition forces, have increased the security presence in Dora.

Jamaica: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of cannabis production in Jamaica. [156497]

Dr. Howells: The UK does not conduct an independent assessment of levels of cannabis production in Jamaica. We rely on the internationally accepted reporting from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). According to their World Drugs Report 2007, available at: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world_drug_report.html, cannabis production (herb and resin) takes place in nearly all the countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The UNODC report estimates that Jamaican cannabis resin represented 3.1 per cent. of global production in 2003-05.

Maldives: Politics and Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the discussions with President Gayoom of the Maldives during his recent visit to the UK covered *(a)* charges brought against members of the opposition and *(b)* the use of state resources and media for President Gayoom's party's campaign for the referendum. [154550]

Dr. Howells: My noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met President Gayoom at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on 20 July. They discussed the economic and political situation in Maldives, but did not cover the specific issues raised by the hon. Member. Lord Malloch-Brown issued a statement following the meeting calling for free and fair elections and successful conduct of the referendum which is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1184751833263&year=2007&month=2007-07-01

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress made by the Special Majlis towards amending the new constitution of the Maldives. [154551]

Dr. Howells: Since the election of the Special Majlis (Constituent Assembly), progress towards the new constitution has been slow. But there have been advances, in particular in relation to the legalisation of political parties, a more tolerant approach to press freedom and the release from detention of many political prisoners.

The referendum in Maldives on 18 August has given the Special Majlis a mandate to develop a constitution based on a presidential system of government. We urge all political parties to work together to ensure that this is done in a transparent manner and that it results in a constitution which delivers a liberal multi-party democracy.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress made by the Government of the Maldives in reforming the judiciary since the visit of UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers in February 2007. [154552]

Dr. Howells: Judicial reform is an important part of the reform process in Maldives. The Maldivian Government has stated publicly that they are drafting secondary legislation on the regulation of the judicial sector. This will need to be compatible with new draft constitutional provisions. We understand that the UN Development Programme is funding an international consultant whose role is to provide technical assistance to the Maldivian Government for this purpose.

Maldives: Referendums

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy for the UK or the EU to send international observers to the referendum to be held in the Maldives on 18 August. [154470]

Dr. Howells: At short notice, the Maldivian Government invited the EU, Commonwealth and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation to observe the referendum. The EU and Commonwealth were unable to send formal observer missions, although the Commonwealth did send a small Election Experts Team. Officials from our High Commission in Colombo, accredited to Maldives, visited the country on polling day and met key stakeholders.

Northern Cyprus

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the British High Commissioner for Cyprus last visited northern Cyprus; who he met from the Turkish Cypriot Administration on that occasion; and what area of northern Cyprus he visited. [156208]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our High Commissioner in Nicosia visits northern Cyprus frequently. On 3 October he accompanied my right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), in her role as Special Representative to Cyprus, on her calls on a wide range of representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community in northern Nicosia.

Northern Cyprus: Property

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place between his Department and property estate agents in the United Kingdom who offer properties in northern Cyprus for sale to British citizens on the advice to be offered to prospective purchasers. [156203]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have no locus to intervene with estate agents in the UK offering properties for sale in northern Cyprus. As such, no discussions have taken place. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel advice remains the most appropriate and effective way for the Government to warn British citizens of the potential risks involved.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place with officials of the Turkish Cypriot Administration in northern Cyprus on the extent of private housing development taking place in northern Cyprus; and when such discussions last took place. [156205]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our High Commission in Nicosia regularly raises the issue of property development with the Turkish Cypriot leadership, most recently in September 2007.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports have been received from the British High Commissioner for Cyprus on the extent of private housing development taking place in northern Cyprus. [156206]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our High Commission in Nicosia reports regularly on the general scale and location of property development in northern Cyprus, as well as on other specific issues such as electrification of the Karpas region.

Pakistan: Frontiers

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Pakistani and *(b)* United States counterparts on securing the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan; what the outcome was of these discussions; and if he will make a statement. [155316]

David Miliband *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* I have discussed issues relating to Afghanistan-Pakistan border security on a number of occasions, including with Pakistani Foreign Minister Kasuri and with US Secretary of State Rice. All parties have reaffirmed their long-term commitment to Afghanistan, and the desire to see stable and peaceful development in the border areas and the wider region.

Palestinians: Entry Clearances

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many entry clearance applications have been received from Palestinian citizens residing in *(a)* east Jerusalem, *(b)* the west bank and *(c)* the Gaza strip in the last 12 months; and what percentage of these applications were approved. [156012]

Dr. Howells: Our consulate general in Jerusalem processes entry clearance applications from residents of east Jerusalem, Gaza and the west bank.

Between 1 October 2006 and 1 October 2007 the consulate general received 1,075 applications for entry clearance from holders of Palestinian Authority travel documents living in the west bank and Gaza. 880 of these applications were issued and 154 were refused. Forty-one applications were either withdrawn, lapsed or are in progress. To collate statistics on whether applicants are resident in the west bank or Gaza would incur disproportionate cost as details of applicants' residency are not recorded centrally.

Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem do not hold Palestinian Authority travel documents. They may apply for entry clearance using a Jordanian T Series document or an Israeli issued Laissez Passer.

There were 543 applications from holders of Jordanian T Series documents, Jordanian passports and holders of Israeli issued Laissez Passers, which show the nationality as Jordanian. To determine which ones are from Palestinians resident in east Jerusalem would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons entry visas were not granted to the Palestine under-19 football squad and its support staff; and what representations he has received on the matter. [156158]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, to my hon. Friend the Member for Leyton and Wanstead (Harry Cohen) on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2008W.

A total of 262 letters had been received up to and including 3 October on this matter.

Russia: Entry Clearances

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average waiting time is for Russian *(a)* students, *(b)* politicians, *(c)* business people and *(d)* others between application for and grant of visas to visit the UK; and if he will make a statement. [153775]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas does not keep statistics on average waiting times for different types of visa applications. Instead, UKvisas performance is measured against the following Public Service Agreement (PSA) standards:

PSA 1: 90 per cent. of straightforward non-settlement applications to be processed within 24 hours.

PSA 2: 90 per cent. of non-settlement applications requiring further inquiries or interview to be processed within 15 days.

PSA 3: 90 per cent. of settlement applications to be processed within 12 weeks.

Our visa sections in Russia exceeded these standards in the 2006-07 and 2005-06 financial years. In 2005-06, an average of 92 per cent. of PSA 1 applications were processed within 24 hours, 97.4 per cent. of PSA 2 applications were processed within 15 days, and 100 per cent. of PSA 3 applications were processed within 12 weeks.

Provisional figures for 2006-07 show that, on average, 92 per cent. of PSA 1 applications were processed within 24 hours, 97 per cent. of PSA 2 applications were processed within 15 days, and 100 per cent. of PSA 3 applications were processed within 12 weeks.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information is provided to Russian applicants for visas to visit the UK. [153776]

Dr. Howells: The information provided to Russian applicants is a combination of generic material that applies to all visa applicants and tailored guidance relevant to applications in Russia.

This information is available primarily through the UKvisas main website: www.ukvisas.ov.uk, our embassy in Moscow's website: www.britaininrussia.ru and the website of UKvisas' commercial partner in Russia: www.ukvac-ru.com.

A range of printed information on applications and procedures is also available at the four visa application centres in Russia operated by VFS.

Special Envoys

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many special envoys have been appointed to *(a)* foreign countries, *(b)* overseas and dependent territories and *(c)* states under UN mandates since 27 June 2007. [155403]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Two special envoys to either foreign countries, overseas and dependent territories or states under UN mandates have been appointed since 27 June 2007. Michael Williams has been appointed the UK Special Representative on

the Middle East and Special Projects. (Further information is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename:= OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid= 1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid= 1184758541371%20&yeai=2007&month=2007-08-01&date= 2007-08-03.)

My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) has been appointed as the Special Representative to Cyprus, (further details are available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12240.asp.)

Timor-Leste: Extradition

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Indonesian officials on the extradition to East Timor of Col. Burhanuddin Siagian. [156433]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with Indonesian officials on the extradition to East Timor of Indonesian Colonel Burhanuddin Siagian. We believe that this is a matter for consideration between the Indonesian and East Timorese Governments.

The UK has consistently expressed concern to both the Indonesian and East Timorese Governments about impunity for those responsible for human rights abuses in East Timor. These issues are pursued through their bilateral Commission for Truth and Friendship (CTF). We have encouraged both governments to make the CTF a process that enjoys the confidence of the victims and the international community.

UK Trade and Investment: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many press officers are employed by UK Trade and Investment. [154137]

Meg Munn: Four press officers are employed by UK Trade and Investment.

Visa Facilitation Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost has been to public funds of payments made to Visa Facilitation Services for the provision of an online visa application service in *(a)* India, *(b)* Nigeria and *(c)* Russia. [154638]

Dr. Howells: The Visa Facilitation Services online application services in India, Nigeria and Russia are funded by a handling fee charged to applicants. No public funds have been involved in the provision of this service.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to seek financial compensation from Visa Facilitation Services for the security failures set out in the report of the Independent Investigation published on 28th July; and if he will make a statement. [154639]

Dr. Howells: No, as no financial loss was incurred. The independent investigator concluded that she could find no evidence that any personal data were misused as a result of the breach of security at the Visa Facilitation Services online visa application facility. We are committed to working with Visa Facilitation Services to ensure that a high standard of customer service is maintained under the contract, which replaces the previous arrangements.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has any remaining contracts with Visa Facilitation Services in force; and if he will make a statement. [154640]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas signed a commercial partnership agreement with VF Worldwide Holdings Ltd. (Visa Facilitation Services) on 27 February 2007. This contract provides that VF Worldwide Holdings will supply UKvisas with visa application and related services in the far east, Former Soviet Union, Gulf and Pakistan, South Asia, South East Asia (excluding Australia and New Zealand), Southern, Central and Eastern Africa and West Africa. This contract is being rolled out across the world gradually throughout 2007. As it comes into effect in each country, it will supersede any previous existing contracts between UKvisas and Visa Facilitation Services in that country.

Visa Facilitation Services currently provides a service for UKvisas in China, India, Qatar and Russia under contracts which have not yet been superseded by the 27 February 2007 contract.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether disciplinary action has been taken against members of staff at UKvisas following the report of the Independent Investigator into breaches of data security in the Visa Facilitation Services online visa application facility; and if he will make a statement. [154641]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has accepted all of the recommendations made by the independent investigator in her report into the data breach at the Visa Facilitation Services online visa application facility. None recommended disciplinary action against UKvisas staff.

Zimbabwe: Entry Clearances

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects a determination to be made on visa application number VC 005578 submitted on 7 September 2006 at the British embassy in Zimbabwe. [154309]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Harare issued visa application number VC 005578 on 20 August, following the authentication of the applicant's documents by the Zimbabwean authorities on 16 August.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average time was that the British embassy in Zimbabwe had to

wait to receive a response from the Zimbabwean authorities for the authentication of documents submitted with a visa application in the latest period for which figures are available. [154310]

Dr. Howells: The waiting time for our embassy in Harare to receive a response from the Zimbabwean authorities for the authentication of official documents submitted with a visa application over the last 12 months has varied from four weeks to 12 months.

Visa section staff at our embassy in Harare have no control over the time the Zimbabwean authorities take to respond to such requests, and continue to chase any request for authentication of documents.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances there have been at Type 1 accident and emergency departments *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100,000 population in each year since 1997-98 in England, broken down by strategic health authority area. [154273]

Mr. Bradshaw: Prior to quarter 1 (April to June) 2001-02, attendance data were collected only as a total figure for all types of accident and emergency (A and E) department (major departments, single specialty departments and minor injury and illness services, including minor injury units). A and E attendances split down into A and E type were first collected in quarter 1 (April to June) 2002-03. Therefore, it is not possible to provide Type 1 attendance figures prior to 2002-03.

The following tables show data on the number of attendances and the number of attendances per 100,000 head of population, at Type 1 A and E departments for strategic health authorities in England since 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Number of attendances and the number of attendances per 100,000 head of population, at Type 1 A and E departments, strategic health authorities in England, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Attendances				*Attendances per 100,000 population*			
SHA name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*20040-05*	*2005-06*
England	11,994,874	12,665,482	13,265,820	13,553,686	24,158	25,399	26,473	26,857
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	389,855	417,568	444,667	448,799	17,758	18,808	19,836	19,787
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	337,644	358,192	388,508	399,056	20,939	22,100	23,899	24,369
Essex HA	324,991	367,679	396,113	405,789	20,002	22,505	24,100	24,485
North West London HA	622,819	649,680	712,502	750,612	34,660	36,128	39,447	41,021
North Central London HA	402,706	472,524	484,899	465,785	33,257	38,838	39,583	37,544
North East London HA	469,186	521,654	579,140	619,790	30,606	34,007	37,809	40,375
South East London HA	472,742	499,162	568,346	605,915	31,198	33,037	37,494	39,654
South West London HA	380,761	388,186	419,437	424,193	29,168	29,761	32,013	32,074
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	345,136	382,487	395,566	377,803	24,746	27,441	28,412	27,067
County Durham and Tees Valley HA	280,953	316,367	333,263	337,807	24,511	27,567	28,981	29,276
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	334,151	352,206	364,041	368,819	20,404	21,337	21,851	21,978
West Yorkshire HA	682,502	693,594	682,662	672,156	32,592	32,975	32,220	31,384
Cumbria and Lancashire HA	455,401	463,772	476,314	493,601	23,837	24,131	24,629	25,415
Greater Manchester HA	835,341	872,133	891,915	942,652	33,174	34,501	35,205	37,064
Cheshire and Merseyside HA	691,484	724,804	739,599	743,840	29,431	30,833	31,444	31,595
Thames Valley HA	388,628	411,055	441,969	441,598	18,459	19,433	20,802	20,600
Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	284,580	280,685	292,302	303,593	15,905	15,606	16,191	16,688
Kent and Medway HA	348,210	364,667	381,477	337,381	21,904	22,783	23,651	20,764
Surrey and Sussex HA	591,294	585,689	619,186	642,238	23,074	22,767	23,978	24,732
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	463,443	502,901	526,092	533,569	21,230	22,878	23,743	23,829
South West Peninsula HA	283,567	307,891	315,325	316,105	17,826	19,217	19,496	19,357
Dorset and Somerset HA	207,990	230,925	216,882	224,147	17,337	19,170	17,946	18,455
South Yorkshire HA	367,323	389,572	400,211	414,050	28,920	30,593	31,285	32,155
Trent HA	492,666	500,782	527,973	541,243	18,579	18,736	19,580	19,934
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	231,337	239,112	257,124	268,756	14,736	15,121	16,122	16,669
Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	279,512	289,741	299,524	302,595	18,721	19,328	19,904	20,043
Birmingham and the Black Country HA	700,556	733,077	750,350	786,128	30,854	32,240	32,930	34,347
West Midlands South HA	330,096	349,377	360,433	385,666	21,553	22,704	23,356	24,847

SHA name	2006-07 Attendances	2006-07 Attendances per 100,000 population
England	13,602,589	26,796
North East	721,903	28,247
North West	2,209,351	32,238
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,475,482	28,693
East Midlands	817,502	18,732
West Midlands	1,507,532	28,091
East of England	1,267,280	22,603
London	2,843,438	37,850
South East Coast	939,294	22,110
South Central	732,387	18,358
South West	1,088,420	21,241

Notes:
In Q1 2006-07, data were collected from the 28 SHAs which existed at the time, this data has been mapped to the new configurations.
Sources:
Department of Health dataset QMAE
Mid year population estimates for each year, 2001 Census Based: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimates he has made of the number of young people under 16 who are regular binge drinkers. [152243]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Available evidence suggests ("Schools Survey on Drinking, Smoking and Drug Use among young people") that the percentage of young people who drink alcohol is falling (from 27 per cent. in 1996 to 21 per cent. in 2006).

Because there is no definition of binge drinking for under-18s, the Government do not make an estimate of how many under-16s regularly binge drink. We do know, from the Schools Survey, that around half of young people under 16 who had drunk alcohol in the last week consumed an average of more than four units on each day they drank. These findings, however, only relate to young people who drank alcohol in the last seven days. The majority of pupils did not drink any alcohol at all during that time.

Ambulance Services: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the revised plans for ambulance cover in Wellingborough and Northamptonshire. [154478]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for each ambulance service to plan the provision of appropriate resources to meet local demand. The East Midlands Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust is responsible for ambulance service provision in Wellingborough and Northamptonshire.

Botox

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plan to introduce regulation of the cosmetics industry with regard to botox injections. [154271]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have asked the Independent Healthcare Advisory Services to take the lead in setting up an industry-led self-regulatory scheme for botulinum toxin and dermal fillers. More details about this scheme will be given in due course.

Breast Feeding

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to promote the breastfeeding of infants; and if he will make a statement. [156461]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department continues to support and promote breastfeeding and will be supporting the National Breastfeeding Awareness Week planned from 11 to 17 May 2008. The week will be supported with a range of promotional materials, funding a conference and working with the local national health service, voluntary organisations and practitioners to facilitate locally-run events.

The Department is also exploring the introduction of a new metric on breastfeeding duration. Also ongoing activity includes television and radio advertising, an updated website, revised publications for parents and health professionals, and providing advice/support for pregnant women and new mothers through the Healthy Start programme.

The Department is continuing to work with the Food Standards Agency on the implementation of the European Union directive on infant formula and follow-on formula regulations, including World Health Organisation best practice.

Central Middlesex Hospital

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of Professor Sir Ara Darzi's report on Central Middlesex Hospital. [154053]

Ann Keen: Lord Ara Darzi's report 'Healthcare for London: A Framework for Action' is intended to begin a dialogue about the future shape of health care services in London. The consultation on the models of care and delivery recommended in the report is due to begin formally in November 2007.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the financial position of Central Middlesex Hospital. [154054]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held by individual hospitals, but by national health service trusts. Central Middlesex Hospital is managed by North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.

At quarter 1, 2007 to 2008, North West London Hospitals NHS Trust is forecasting a surplus of £6 million at the end of the 2007 to 2008 financial year.

Chronically Sick: Health Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing in full the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Long-term Care. [154780]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In England, the Government have accepted each of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on long term care except the recommendation that personal care should be provided free at the point of delivery to all in all settings. We estimate that the cost of implementing free personal care in England would be around £1.5 billion at 2003-04 prices.

The Personal Social Services Research Unit has recently published "Paying for Long-Term Care for Older People in the UK: Modelling the Costs and Distributional Effects of a Range of Options", which models a range of options for funding long-term care, including making personal care free to all in all settings.

The report gives estimated public expenditure costs at 2002 prices of between £1.35 billion and £1.8 billion, depending on the way in which free personal care is implemented. This covers residential and home care for older people. It covers the whole of the United Kingdom. The England equivalent range would be about £1.2 billion to £1.6 billion. These estimates take account of limited offsetting savings of disability benefits.

Cirencester Hospital

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to make a decision on the independent sector provider contract for Cirencester Hospital. [156357]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is working with the national health service to review the specifications of schemes in Phase 2 of the central procurement process, including the proposed scheme for the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire area, to ensure that future schemes best meet the needs of the local NHS, and are responsive to the needs of the communities in which they will operate. This exercise is ongoing, and expected to be completed in October. Once this process is complete, and all parties involved in negotiations have been informed of the outcomes, further information will be made available.

Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health. [154151]

Ann Keen: The Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health employ seven communications leads and one head of communications. Part of the role these officers perform includes dealing with the media.

Commission for Social Care Inspection: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [154132]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We understand from the Commission for Social Care Inspection that there are three press officers employed.

Congenital Abnormalities

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on children's (i) brains and (ii) development of (A) prematurity, (B) foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and (C) fragile X syndrome. [154614]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service and through its Policy Research Programme supports a programme of research at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) on the health of pregnant women and their babies. This includes research relating to cerebral palsy and other early childhood impairment where prematurity is the single largest risk factor. With additional support from other funders, NPEU is also undertaking work which relates to neurodevelopmental follow-up of groups of children recruited to trials of specific interventions, where either all or the majority of the recruited children were preterm.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" has resulted in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. In particular, the major focus of the neonatal medicine research group at the Hammersmith and St. Mary's and Imperial College Biomedical Research Centre, formed this year, is the prevention and treatment of brain injury and developmental impairment in the newborn infant, both as a result of prematurity and birth asphyxia. The Department has allocated £7 million over five years to the research theme of which the Centre's work forms a part.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. In 2005-06, MRC expenditure on research related to premature birth amounted to £4 million. In addition, the MRC supports a large portfolio of reproductive tract research and underpinning reproductive medicine and paediatric research.

More specifically, the MRC is currently funding a research project on Fragile X syndrome that aims to provide fundamental insights into the cellular mechanisms through which cognitive symptoms of the syndrome arise and that may be important for discovery of new therapies for mental retardation.

Dental Services

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dentists have failed to meet their target number of units of dental activity since the new NHS dental contract was introduced in 2005, broken down by primary care trust; [154061]

(2) how many dentists *(a)* completed their annual units of dental activity (UDA) early, *(b)* requested further UDAs and *(c)* requested but were refused further UDAs in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust. [154062]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the form requested.

Information on the total units of dental activity delivered in 2006-07 at England, strategic health authority and primary care trust (PCT) level is contained in "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". This report is available in the Library.

Information is not held centrally on the number of contractors who completed their annual contracted level of activity before the end of March 2007 or on the number of requests to PCTs to deliver additional activity during 2006-07.

The Dental Services Division (DSD) of the National Health Service Business Services Authority holds data on dental activity provided under NHS dental contracts, together with information provided by PCTs on the levels of activity commissioned for each contract. However, these data are not routinely published. The DSD is currently considering a freedom of information request for a comparison of the two data items for 2006-07. Depending on the outcome, some contract level information of this kind may be available from the DSD later this autumn.

Dental Services: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are in Bolton; and how many of these are taking on new patients. [154051]

Ann Keen: As of 31 March 2007 there were 110 dentists on open national health service contracts in the Bolton primary care trust area. The number of dentists taking on new NHS patients is not collected centrally.

Source:

NHS Dental Statistics 2006-07, The Information Centre for health and social care, August 2007.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received about the availability of NHS dentists in Bolton. [154052]

Ann Keen: There have been six parliamentary questions from my hon. Friend the Members for Bolton, North-East (Mr. Crausby) and for Bolton, South-East (Dr. Iddon) on dental services in Bolton. In addition, there have been a small number of letters from members of the public.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial year *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156676]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following lists show the accounts directions issued to bodies for which the Department has responsibility.

Issued in 2005-06:

Information Centre for health and social care
Mental Health Act Commission
NHS Appointments Commission
NHS Business Services Authority
NHS Blood and Transplant
NHS Direct
NHS Professionals
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
National Institute for Improvement and Innovation
National Patient Safety Authority
National Treatment Agency
NHS Litigation Authority
Dental Practice Board
Dental Vocational Training Authority
National Blood Authority
NHS Logistics
NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service
NHS Pensions Agency
Prescription Pricing Authority.
UK Transplant
Strategic Health Authorities

Issued in 2006-07:

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health
Commission for Social Care Inspection
General Social Care Council
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
Health Protection Agency
Health and Social Care Information Centre
Mental Health Act Commission
National Biological Standards Board
NHS Appointments Commission
NHS Business Services Authority
NHS Blood and Transplant
NHS Direct
NHS Professionals
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
National Institute for Improvement and Innovation
National Patient Safety Authority
National Treatment Agency
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board
NHS Litigation Authority.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155871]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on projects awarded to private consultancy firms by the Department and its agencies in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

Departments: Lisbon Agenda

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policies his Department has adopted to assist in the United Kingdom's fulfilment of the Lisbon Agenda criteria. [155844]

Dawn Primarolo: A healthy population is a key driver to achieving economic growth. This is at the core of the Department's policies to improve and modernise health services and to prevent illness and morbidity through activities such as health promotion.

A key part of this will be to reduce health inequalities in the United Kingdom. The Department is working to a public service agreement target to reduce inequalities in health outcomes by 10 per cent. by 2010.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1552W, on Departments: pay, (1) how many *(a)* civil servants are on each payscale and *(b)* consultants are on each banding within the Department's Commercial Directorate; [154653]

(2) whether the commercial directorate contractor bandings refer to *(a)* per hour, *(b)* per day, *(c)* per week, *(d)* per month or *(e)* per annum. [154802]

Dawn Primarolo: The Commercial Directorate contracts interims for a specified piece of work or time period. The bandings are an internal control tool created by and used solely by the Commercial Directorate and refer to day rates. The number of interims (headcount) by bandings in the Commercial Directorate at 1 October 2007 is shown in the following table.

	Number
Band 1	6
Band 2	17
Band 3	67
Band 4	68
Band 5	24
Total	182

The number of civil servants (full-time equivalent) in the Commercial Directorate at 1 October 2007 is shown in the following table.

	Number
SCS3	1
SCS1	1
Grade 6	1
Grade 7	2
SEO	1.7
EO	1
Total	7.7

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department over the lifetime of the contract, expressed in constant 2007-08 prices, and discounted to present value. [155027]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The following table gives details of private finance initiative schemes which have reached financial close including capital value, unitary payments at 2007-08 prices, and the total value of these discounted to present value.

Unitary charge payments under PFI contracts at 2007-08 prices

£ million

NHS Trust/PCT	*Total capital value*	*Total unitary payments in 2007-08 prices*	*Discounted present value of UPs*
Dartford and Gravesham Hospital NHS Trust	94	525.9	358.86
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	67	481.1	300.96
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	45	370.0	231.46
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust	158	1,357.4	849.13
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	61	429.9	268.94
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Trust	67	752.2	457.59
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	96	670.4	419.34
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	65	598.3	374.26
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	118	429.9	268.94
Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup NHS Trust	15	66.3	41.49
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	54	491.0	307.13
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	87	743.8	465.28
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	64	379.6	237.44
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	17	96.1	60.11
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	48	294.3	184.08
Sussex Partnership NHS Trust	22	126.8	79.34
South Tees Acute Hospital NHS Trust	122	895.5	560.17
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	100	540.1	357.85
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	76	583.1	364.73
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	28	125.0	78.17

Unitary charge payments under PFI contracts at 2007-08 prices

NHS Trust/PCT	*Total capital value*	*Total unitary payments in 2007-08 prices*	*£ million Discounted present value of UPs*
Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	47	289.7	181.23
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	46	248.5	155.44
Oxleas NHS Trust	11	48.7	30.48
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	422	1,312.0	809.26
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	11	41.4	25.91
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	18	202.5	126.70
East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust	15	50.5	31.59
Cornwall Healthcare NHS Trust	10	86.4	54.08
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	18	59.8	37.41
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	15	40.7	25.47
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	22	68.4	42.81
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	60	373.1	226.98
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	55	126.8	79.33
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	137	577.6	361.32
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	30	143.9	90.03
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	15	64.8	40.56
Surrey PCT	29	102.7	64.22
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	13	103.7	64.85
Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust	37	138.5	86.62
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	32	111.4	68.70
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	10	71.4	44.05
Devon PCT	10	49.9	30.79
West Berkshire PCT	19	109.1	67.31
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	14	57.7	35.61
The Whittington NHS Trust	32	113.5	72.00
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	379	1,989.9	1,162.07
Brent PCT	21	92.4	57.80
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	26	102.7	64.26
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	16	25.4	15.68
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	110	311.8	182.10
Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust	12	57.0	35.64
Derby Hospitals NHS Trust	312	1,287.2	741.77
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	30	99.6	62.29
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	69	224.0	140.13
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	134	553.0	345.92
Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust	238	499.3	287.73
Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	52	356.0	222.72
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	265	647.2	388.34
Avon and Western Wiltshire MH NHS Trust	83	198.9	124.41
Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	24	78.7	49.23
Kirklees PCT	25	67.2	42.06
Wandsworth PCT	75	324.1	202.74
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	31	158.9	99.38
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	47	318.1	198.96
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	36	127.0	79.45
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	51	184.7	113.95
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	76	190.5	120.90
Hampshire PCT	36	137.9	87.53
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	28	244.7	153.05
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	30	76.7	48.69
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	420	1,824.8	1,051.56
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	19	67.3	42.72
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	28	63.9	40.55
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals	299	861.9	510.14
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	296	1,043.8	634.34
Northgate and Prudhoe—Neuro Disability Centre	24	44.6	28.29
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	129	475.4	297.39
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	193	1,001.0	617.45

Unitary charge payments under PFI contracts at 2007-08 prices

NHS Trust/PCT	*Total capital value*	*Total unitary payments in 2007-08 prices*	*£ million Discounted present value of UPs*
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	67	128.7	80.48
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	36	89.9	56.24
Barts and the London NHS Trust	1,000	2,909.4	1,722.06
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	338	1,071.1	625.54
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust	697	1,426.8	833.22
South West Essex Teaching PCT	30	98.7	61.72
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	21	79.7	49.84
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	29	70.1	43.82
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	375	1,116.0	698.14
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	353	778.5	486.98
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	336	813.8	495.01
North Middlesex Hospitals NHS Trust	144	640.9	379.36
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	190	401.2	240.72
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	112	285.5	171.28
Total	9,870.74	38,195.40	23,311.63

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1553W, on departments: public expenditure, what items of specific guidance have been given to *(a)* the Finance Directorate and *(b)* his Department generally on the Comprehensive Spending Review process. [154106]

Mr. Bradshaw: In preparation for the Comprehensive Spending Review, HM Treasury has worked closely with the Department and with all Government Departments, providing guidance throughout the process.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when Ministers of his Department expect next to meet representatives of Consumers for Health to discuss the implementation of the food supplements directive; [156224]

(2) if he will make a statement on the outcome of the Working Group meeting of EU member states held on 24 September to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements and fortified foods; [156225]

(3) whether officials of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency have made representations to the European Commission on the extent of the circulation of the Commission's recent orientation paper on the setting of nutrient levels for food supplements and fortified foods; and if he will make it his policy to encourage the Commission to improve the openness and transparency of its activity on the implementation of the food supplements directive; [156226]

(4) if he will make a statement on the anticipated timetable for the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; [156227]

(5) what legal principles informed the contribution of the Food Standards Agency to discussions with the European Commission on the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements; and if he will make a statement; [156228]

(6) what recent contacts there have been between officials of the Food Standards Agency and their counterparts in *(a)* the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* other European member states to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; and if he will make a statement. [156229]

Dawn Primarolo: The meeting of the Working Group on 24 September was to obtain member states' initial views on an orientation paper on setting maximum and minimum levels for vitamins and minerals in foodstuffs, issued by the Commission in late July. We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that general discussions on the orientation paper in the working group revealed that many member states are yet to establish views on many issues. The Commission has asked member states to consider the various issues presented in the orientation paper in preparation for more detailed discussions at the next working group meeting which has provisionally been scheduled for November.

FSA officials have raised the issue of circulation of the orientation paper with the European Commission. The Commission recognised that member states have obligations to consult their stakeholders and did not place restrictions on the circulation of the paper, leaving this to the discretion of the member states. The FSA sent the paper to United Kingdom stakeholders on 8 August seeking their initial comments and held a meeting on 14 September during which the paper was discussed in detail. Further meetings between the FSA and Ministers will be arranged when necessary.

The European Commission has indicated its intention to produce proposals in the form of draft amending legislation to go forward to the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) for consideration in early 2009.

Recent discussions between FSA officials and the European Commission focussed on the Commission's orientation paper, and have not extended to detailed

discussions of legal principles. The legal basis for setting levels of vitamins and minerals in foodstuffs that informs the FSA's contribution to discussions with the Commission is outlined in the Food Supplements Directive 2002/46/EC and the Regulation on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods EC No 1925/2006.

FSA officials met with their counterparts from the Republic of Ireland and other member states during, and in the margins of, the European Commission's working group meeting with member states on 24 September, on the setting of maximum permitted levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

Disposable Syringes

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the Vendafit needle dispensing machine in the context of managing the condition of drug dependent patients. [155731]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no assessment.

Doctors: Career Structure

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the findings of Sir John Tooke's independent review of the Modernising Medical Careers programme; and if he will make a statement. [156448]

Ann Keen: The Department would like to thank Sir John Tooke and his review group for investing so much time and expertise in providing recommendations for the future of medical training for 2009 and beyond. We will consider Sir John's findings carefully.

Drugs: Internet

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions there are on the bringing into the UK of non-prescription medical drugs purchased by individuals on the internet; whether the Government have any plans *(a)* to tighten these restrictions and *(b)* to impose the enforcement of existing restrictions; and if he will make a statement. [156069]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations Etc.) Regulations 1994, it is unlawful for medicinal products for human use to be marketed, manufactured, imported from a third country, distributed and sold or supplied in the United Kingdom except in accordance with the appropriate licences or exemptions.

Medicinal products for human use that are brought into the UK by an individual for his or her own use or that of a member of his/her family, including those purchased via the internet or by mail order, are not regarded as being imported for sale or supply within the UK and accordingly are not subject to the controls of the Marketing Authorisation Regulations. Any onward sale or supply, however, would place the product on the market and bring it within the regulatory system designed to protect public health and safety. There are no plans at this time to change the legislation.

Epilepsy

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of stigma experienced by people with epilepsy; [153654]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on the treatment of prisoners diagnosed with epilepsy; [153655]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of information provided to patients upon diagnosis of epilepsy on the risks of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. [153656]

Ann Keen: The Department is working to reduce the level of stigma experienced by those with epilepsy by raising awareness of this condition among the public. Information on epilepsy is made available on the NHS Direct website at www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk as well as the Epilepsy Information Network.

We commissioned the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce clinical guidelines for the diagnosis, management and treatment of epilepsy. This guidance, published in October 2004, specifically covers the importance of informing patients and their families of the risks of sudden death in epilepsy. In addition, we have made a grant of almost £290,000 to the National Society for Epilepsy to improve support and information for people with epilepsy and their families through their Epilepsy Information Network.

We have made no assessment of the implementation of the guidance produced by NICE on the treatment of prisoners diagnosed with epilepsy.

Epilepsy: Learning Disability

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence epilepsy clinical guidance on the treatment of people with epilepsy with learning disabilities. [153973]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the effects of the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's epilepsy guidance on the treatment of those with learning disabilities.

Epilepsy: Nurses

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist epilepsy nurses there are; and what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of their work. [155637]

Mr. Bradshaw: The annual workforce census does not separately identify specialist epilepsy nurses from the rest of the nursing workforce.

Since 1997, there has been an increase of almost 80,000 qualified nurses employed in the national health service in England, and the number of training places for nurses and midwives has risen by 51 per cent. This will increase the pool of nurses from which nurses specialising in epilepsy can be drawn.

No assessment has been carried out centrally. It is for local trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly, this includes provision of specialist nursing posts.

Epilepsy: Video Games

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many photosensitive epileptic seizures caused by electronic games were recorded in *(a)* England and *(b)* the South West in each of the last five years. [153974]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of epileptic seizures caused by electronic games is not collected.

EU Countries

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what official visits he is planning to European Union member states in the next six months. [155845]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State is planning to visit Brussels for political and policy meetings at the end of November 2007.

I have the following visits scheduled on behalf of the Secretary of State:

	Scheduled visits
14-15 October 2007	Meeting other European Union Health Ministers in Rome
14-15 November 2007	Media Global Health Committee Trade Event, Dusseldorf
6 December 2007	European Union Health Council, Brussels

Eyesight: Testing

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the introduction of charges for *(a)* eye tests and *(b)* dental check-ups on demand for these services; and if he will make a statement. [154779]

Ann Keen: There is no system of national health service charges for sight tests. Certain groups including children, people aged over 60, those on a low income and those predisposed to eye disease are eligible for NHS funded sight tests. Those not eligible for NHS funded sight tests have to pay privately.

In 1999 we reintroduced free sight tests for everyone aged 60 and over. This resulted in a switch from private to NHS sight tests, rather than any material increase in the overall number of sights tests. This suggested that the cost of a sight test is not a disincentive for individuals.

This Government have not introduced charges for dental examinations. NHS charges for dental examinations have been in place since 1989 for those patients who are not exempt on income or other grounds. In April 2006 the system of charges was simplified as part of the wider reforms to NHS dentistry. Under the reforms, dental examinations are no longer charged as a separate item of service but as part of a course of treatment. A basic course of treatment (band 1) costs £15.90 and includes examination, diagnosis (including x-rays if needed), preventative advice and, if clinically indicated, a scale and polish.

Fibromyalgia

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on fibromyalgia over the last five years. [156387]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 962W.

Food Standards Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the Food Standards Agency. [154138]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency currently employs eight press officers.

General Practitioners

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of patients visiting their general practitioner were subsequently referred on in the latest period for which figures are available; [154365]

(2) what percentage of patients in each primary care trust area who visited their general practitioner were referred on in the last 12 months. [154549]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the total number patients who visit their general practitioner is not routinely collected.

For the period 2006-07, the total number of commissioner based general practitioner referrals to first consultant outpatient appointment was 9,226,012. The following table provides a breakdown of this figure by primary care trust for the same period.

General practitioner (GP) written referrals made for first out-patient appointment, all specialties, England, 2006-07 commissioner based

Strategic health authority	*Code*	*Name of primary care trust (PCT)*	*GP referrals made*
Q39	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	36,975
Q36	5A4	Havering PCT	35,317
Q36	5A5	Kingston PCT	27,871
Q36	5A7	Bromley PCT	65,999
Q36	5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	41,653
Q36	5A9	Barnet PCT	72,221
Q32	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	27,077

General practitioner (GP) written referrals made for first out-patient appointment, all specialties, England, 2006-07 commissioner based

Strategic health authority	Code	Name of primary care trust (PCT)	GP referrals made
Q36	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	45,300
Q36	5C1	Enfield PCT	48,872
Q36	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	26,629
Q36	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	49,144
Q36	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	38,422
Q36	5C5	Newham PCT	60,006
Q36	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	49,227
Q31	5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	26,080
Q34	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	33,859
Q38	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	26,060
Q30	5D7	Newcastle PCT	52,579
Q30	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	41,959
Q30	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	16,236
Q30	5E1	North Tees PCT	33,113
Q32	5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	29,572
Q33	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	55,153
Q33	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	24,165
Q39	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	45,927
Q31	5F5	Salford PCT	52,528
Q31	5F7	Stockport PCT	57,022
Q38	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	35,770
Q39	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	33,498
Q35	5GC	Luton PCT	36,011
Q36	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	26,148
Q32	5H8	Rotherham PCT	48,355
Q31	5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	65,302
Q31	5HP	Blackpool PCT	27,441
Q31	5HQ	Bolton PCT	54,102
Q36	5HX	Ealing PCT	69,048
Q36	5HY	Hounslow PCT	48,671
Q31	5J2	Warrington PCT	26,926
Q31	5J4	Knowsley PCT	35,796
Q31	5J5	Oldham PCT	45,361
Q32	5J6	Calderdale PCT	36,758
Q30	5J9	Darlington PCT	16,497
Q32	5JE	Barnsley PCT	52,149
Q31	5JX	Bury PCT	38,374
Q39	5K3	Swindon PCT	34,892
Q36	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	52,457
Q36	5K6	Harrow PCT	32,809
Q36	5K7	Camden PCT	46,363
Q36	5K8	Islington PCT	40,998
Q36	5K9	Croydon PCT	54,327
Q30	5KF	Gateshead PCT	46,639
Q30	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	35,630
Q30	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	51,798
Q30	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	23,669
Q38	5L1	Southampton City PCT	35,156
Q37	5L3	Medway PCT	51,360
Q36	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	28,869
Q36	5LC	Westminster PCT	40,881
Q36	5LD	Lambeth PCT	49,047
Q36	5LE	Southwark PCT	38,280
Q36	5LF	Lewisham PCT	45,483
Q36	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	68,075
Q31	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	46,789
Q37	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	54,436
Q34	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	81,166
Q34	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	33,843
Q34	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	51,741
Q36	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	33,301
Q36	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	70,419

General practitioner (GP) written referrals made for first out-patient appointment, all specialties, England, 2006-07 commissioner based

Strategic health authority	Code	Name of primary care trust (PCT)	GP referrals made
Q39	5M8	North Somerset PCT	36,539
Q34	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	61,134
Q34	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	16,325
Q34	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	50,374
Q34	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	58,481
Q32	5N1	Leeds PCT	107,676
Q32	5N2	Kirklees PCT	65,532
Q32	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	57,542
Q32	5N4	Sheffield PCT	110,575
Q32	5N5	Doncaster PCT	60,155
Q33	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	132,350
Q33	5N7	Derby City PCT	48,874
Q33	5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	123,061
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	131,388
Q36	5NA	Redbridge PCT	38,389
Q36	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	31,613
Q30	5ND	County Durham PCT	90,731
Q31	5NE	Cumbria PCT	102,845
Q31	5NF	North Lancashire PCT	61,355
Q31	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	90,878
Q31	5NH	East Lancashire PCT	69,026
Q31	5NJ	Sefton PCT	63,085
Q31	5NK	Wirral PCT	59,252
Q31	5NL	Liverpool PCT	110,086
Q31	5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	61,783
Q31	5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	48,754
Q31	5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	77,230
Q31	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	43,684
Q31	5NR	Trafford PCT	56,929
Q31	5NT	Manchester PCT	112,803
Q32	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	131,884
Q32	5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	58,967
Q32	5NX	Hull PCT	55,605
Q32	5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	68,094
Q35	5P1	South East Essex PCT	83,451
Q35	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	73,534
Q35	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	89,652
Q35	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	72,171
Q37	5P5	Surrey PCT	163,219
Q37	5P6	West Sussex PCT	128,310
Q37	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	65,024
Q37	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	35,862
Q37	5P9	West Kent PCT	103,842
Q33	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	109,605
Q33	5PC	Leicester City PCT	56,441
Q33	5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	88,184
Q34	5PE	Dudley PCT	48,603
Q34	5PF	Sandwell PCT	66,326
Q34	5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	78,531
Q34	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	33,356
Q34	5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	40,102
Q34	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	119,351
Q34	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	109,586
Q34	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	96,158
Q35	5PN	Peterborough PCT	28,000
Q35	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	88,249
Q35	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	111,909
Q35	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	47,476
Q35	5PT	Suffolk PCT	96,693
Q35	5PV	West Essex PCT	48,706
Q35	5PW	North East Essex PCT	55,867
Q35	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	56,897

General practitioner (GP) written referrals made for first out-patient appointment, all specialties, England, 2006-07 commissioner based

Strategic health authority	*Code*	*Name of primary care trust (PCT)*	*GP referrals made*
Q35	5PY	South West Essex PCT	63,812
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	118,942
Q38	5QC	Hampshire PCT	203,425
Q38	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	79,799
Q38	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	76,039
Q38	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	63,066
Q38	5QG	Berkshire East PCT	52,389
Q39	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	85,664
Q39	5QJ	Bristol PCT	69,580
Q39	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	83,775
Q39	5QL	Somerset PCT	87,607
Q39	5QM	Dorset PCT	83,368
Q39	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	63,186
Q39	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	101,449
Q39	5QQ	Devon PCT	134,859
Q30	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	21,960
Q38	5QT	Isle of Wight NHS Pet	27,805
Q30	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	59,166
Q36	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	30,438
Q39	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	25,034
Q34	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	42,944
		England	9,226,012

Source:
Department of Health monthly monitoring return

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England are not registered with a GP surgery. [154559]

Mr. Bradshaw: These data are not collected centrally by the Department.

General Practitioners: Rents

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will revise the cost rent system used to reimburse GP practices accommodation costs to ensure that facilities are not reimbursed by a number of different agencies at the same time in cases of subletting space in GP surgeries. [154362]

Mr. Bradshaw: The "National Health Service (General Medical Services—Premises Costs) (England) Directions 2004" set out the arrangements for primary care trusts to make payments in respect of general practitioner (GP) premises' costs. Direction 48 provides for those payments to be offset by any rents GPs receive from third parties for areas of premises they occupy. There is therefore no need for a revision.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of GP practices hold *(a)* evening and *(b)* weekend surgeries. [153852]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. However, the Department's quarterly Access to Primary Care Survey shows that over the last year an average of 5.5 per cent. of patients were offered an evening appointment and an average of 1.25 per cent. of patients were offered an appointment at the weekend by their general practitioner surgeries.

Gorlin Syndrome

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the standard of care provided to patients with Gorlin Syndrome; and if he will make a statement; [154740]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the level of implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on improving outcomes for people with skin tumours; [154741]

(3) what representations his Department has received on patients with Gorlin Syndrome being unable to access treatment on the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [154742]

Ann Keen: The Department has received a very small number of representations about access to treatment on the national health service for Gorlin's Syndrome patients. No assessment has been made of the standard of care provided to patients with this syndrome.

However, in February 2006 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued guidance on "Improving Outcomes for People with Skin Tumours including Melanoma".

This guidance highlights a number of genetic conditions, including Gorlin's Syndrome, which predispose a person to the development of skin cancer in later life and sets out recommendations for the management of people with this condition.

Specialised commissioning groups[1] have been asked to produce implementation summaries setting out how they would implement this guidance over the next three years. These plans have been submitted to the National Cancer Action Team and are being checked for compliance against the guidance.

[1] Specialised services, defined as those services provided in relatively few specialist centres to catchment populations of more

than 1 million people, are either commissioned regionally by specialised commissioning groups (SCGs) or nationally by the National Commissioning Group (NCG) depending on the rarity of the condition or treatment. 10 new SCGs were established on 1 April 2007 to commission services on a regional basis, coterminous with the 10 strategic health authorities. (This succeeds a two tier arrangement of regional (eight SCGs) and local (25 local SCGs) commissioning groups.) Services commissioned at SCG level include haemophilia, blood and marrow transplantation, secure forensic mental health, spinal cord injuries, etc.

Health Protection Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the Health Protection Agency. [154141]

Dawn Primarolo: There are 21.5 press officers employed by the Health Protection Agency. This includes:

nine regional communications managers (one per region) and three regional press officers (based in the London, eastern and west midlands regions);

five press officers based at the Centre for Infections, Colindale;

3.5 press officers based at the Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and the Environment, Chilton; and

one Head of Strategic Communications Planning: Emergency Preparedness and Response based at the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Porton.

Health Services: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sampling techniques were used in compiling statistical information on the health needs of Bedfordshire and Luton when allocating funds for *(a)* Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Luton Primary Care Trust; and if he will make a statement. [155927]

Mr. Bradshaw: Funding is allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine PCTs' target shares of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) oversees the development of the weighted-capitation formula. ACRA is an independent body which has national health service management, general practitioner, and academic members. It commissions research to measure the health needs of PCTs.

The health need element of the formula, which informs the revenue allocations to PCTs in 2006-07 and 2007-08, was based upon research carried out by the allocation of resources to English areas (AREA) research team in 2001-02 and by Warwick university. The AREA research modelled need for all areas in England, and as a result a national formula was developed. A detailed description of the research techniques and the formula are published on the Department's website[1, 2] at:

www.dh.gov.uk/allocations

Generally, the data used in this research were based on full population datasets (for example, the National Census). Statistical sampling was not required in those cases. The significant exception was the Health Survey for England (HSE). HSE data for 1994-2000 inclusive were used and this provided a national sample size of 122,488. More details of the techniques used are provided in the document listed at point 2 as follows.

[1] "Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula: Fifth edition" (Department of Health).

[2] Allocation of Resources to English Areas; Individual and small area determinants of morbidity and use of healthcare resources (Sutton M, Gravelle H, Morris S, Leyland A, Windmeijer F, Dibben C, Muirhead M) Report to the Department of Health. Edinburgh: Information and Statistics Division, 2002.

Health Services: East Midlands

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what contact his Department has had with *(a)* the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA), *(b)* primary care trusts within the East Midlands SHA area, *(c)* NHS hospital trusts, foundation trusts and mental health trusts within the East Midlands SHA area and *(d)* right hon. and hon. Members on the effects of immigration into the region, NHS services and budgets; and if he will make a statement; [156398]

(2) what contact his Department has had with *(a)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA), *(b)* primary care trusts within the East of England SHA area, *(c)* NHS hospital trusts, foundation trusts and mental health trusts within the SHA area and *(d)* right hon. and hon. Members on the effects of immigration into the region on NHS services and budgets; and if he will make a statement. [156399]

Dawn Primarolo: Ministers have regular meetings with hon. Members and other stakeholders about health services in England. There is also a regular flow of correspondence from across the country including the East of England and East Midlands areas.

The Department is supporting local national health service organisations engage within regional strategic migration partnerships which provide a single multi-sector, multi agency forum to consider the impacts of migration as they affect regional areas. Funding of £20,000 is available in both 2007-08 and 2008-09 to help with co-ordination arrangements.

Discussions are shortly to start with the East Midlands Government Office and the Local Government East Midlands about this. Also, this work is being taken forward in partnership with the East of England Regional Assembly, the East of England Government Office and Suffolk primary care trust.

Healthcare Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the Healthcare Commission. [154169]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand from the Chairman of the Healthcare Commission that at present the Healthcare Commission currently employs three full-time press officers and one full-time media relations manager, all who are based at the Healthcare Commissions head office at Finsbury Tower, London.

Hearing Impaired: Tunbridge Wells

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent average waiting time is for *(a)* audiology appointments and *(b)* the issue of a digital hearing aid in Tunbridge Wells constituency. [154473]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally in the format requested.

However, the following data show waiting times for audiological assessments in West Kent primary care trust and nationally as at July 2007 and published on 12 September 2007.

West Kent Primary Care Trust

Total waiting for an audiological assessment: 1,765 with 1,060 waiting over 13 weeks.

National

Total waiting for an audiological assessment: 116,915 with 63,161 waiting over 13 weeks.

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's preliminary recommendation of 7 August 2007 on percutaneous coronary intervention; and if he will make a statement. [156162]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is reviewing its October 2003 guidance on the use of drug-eluting stents for the treatment of coronary artery disease. NICE is currently considering the responses it has received from stakeholders during the recent consultation on its draft recommendations. As NICE has not yet issued final guidance it would be inappropriate for us to comment further at this stage.

NICE expects to publish final guidance in March 2008.

Hepatitis: Drugs

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total annual cost was of drug treatments for hepatitis C in 2005-06. [154357]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has recommended three drugs used for the treatment of hepatitis C: pegylated interferons, interferon alfa and oral ribavirin. The estimated costs of these drugs dispensed in hospitals and in the community in the financial year 2005-06 was £24.4 million.

Pegylated interferon alfa-2a may also be used to treat chronic hepatitis B. Interferon alfa-2a and 2b may also be used to treat chronic hepatitis B and some malignant diseases, such as certain forms of leukaemia. It is not possible to identify these costs separately.

Notes:

1. These data have been collated by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

2. The source of data on hospital prescribing is © IMS HEALTH: Hospital Pharmacy Audit. The cost of the medicines is estimated at NHS list price and not necessarily the price that the hospital paid.

3. Data on community prescribing are taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority. Estimated costs are based on Net Ingredient Cost (NIC). NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

Hospitals

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what district general hospitals there are in England; [154646]

(2) which hospitals are located in each parliamentary constituency. [154647]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no current nationally agreed definition of what constitutes a district general hospital, although the term is in common use and is generally employed to describe large hospitals which are not teaching hospitals.

Information identifying individual hospital sites by parliamentary constituency is not collected centrally. However, a series of fact sheets on the Department's website does identify the headquarters' address of each national health service trust in this manner. The information is available at:

www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhsfactsheets.nsf

NHS organisations will decide locally what constitutes the best configuration of healthcare services for their populations. In some localities, services may be provided in large centralised hospitals, while others may offer the same services in the community.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of wards in acute hospitals in England which will need to be temporarily closed to be deep cleaned. [156456]

Ann Keen: The delivery of any deep-clean process is entirely a matter for local determination and will be affected by a range of local factors and considerations. It is not therefore possible to provide any estimate of the number of ward closures which may be required. However, we would expect all trusts to organise this programme in such a way that it minimises impact on service delivery and inconvenience to patients.

Hospitals: Food

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the proportion of hospital food wasted in the most recent period for which figures are available. [154175]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected in the format requested. The latest figures (for England) on food waste in the form of untouched meals are as set out as follows:

	2005-06
Total number of untouched/unserved patient meals	13,053,065
Average percentage of untouched/unserved patient meals	9.42

Since 2004-05, the data provided have not been collected on a mandatory basis and therefore will not be complete.

Hospitals: Ministers of Religion

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18th July 2007, *Official Report*, column 456W, on Hospitals: Ministers of religion, what guidance he has issued on the responsibilities of NHS trusts to provide for the spiritual care of patients; and when budgetary control was devolved to NHS trusts in relation to these matters. [154317]

Ann Keen: The Department issued guidance to national health service trusts in November 2003. "Meeting the Religious and Spiritual Needs of Patients and Staff" sets out a framework for the context and provision of chaplaincy and spiritual care services throughout the NHS that meet the needs of today's multi-cultural and spiritually diverse society.

NHS organisations have always been responsible for the provision of chaplaincy and spiritual care services. Funding for this is built into financial allocations to primary care trust, who commission hospital services on behalf of patients. "Shifting the Balance of Power", published in 2002, empowered NHS trusts to give front line staff more say in how resources are allocated and services are delivered locally.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. [154167]

Dawn Primarolo: I am informed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority that, as of 28 August 2007, two people are employed to work full-time with the media, of which one has the job title of press officer.

Hyperactivity

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether clinical guidelines being developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will take account of the possibility that attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is caused by *(a)* dietary and *(b)* environmental factors. [156510]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is producing a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children, young people and adults. The guideline will provide recommendations for good practice based on the latest available evidence and will be developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders. The published scope of the guideline includes consideration of dietary elimination and supplementation, and makes reference to environmental risk factors. The full scope for this guideline is available on the NICE website at:

guidance.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=351276

NICE expects to publish final guidance in July 2008.

Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts. [154737]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are informed by the Chairman of Monitor, whose statutory name is the independent regulator of national health service foundation trusts, that Monitor employs two external relations officers, part of whose responsibilities include media handling.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 982-3W, on Influenza: Vaccination, what form the ongoing programme of public engagement will take; whether criteria determining the priority in which different groups of people are offered *(a)* vaccines, *(b)* antivirals and *(c)* other clinical interventions will be subjected to formal consultation; how often he expects these criteria to be reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [154216]

Dawn Primarolo: Work continues on the design of a public engagement programme in accordance with the timetable set out in the previous written answer.

Between March and May 2007 the Government consulted on the draft 'Ethical framework for the response to pandemic influenza', which provides an ethical framework for policy and planning decisions relating to pandemic influenza, including the prioritisation of clinical countermeasures. The final version of this document will be published with the final 'National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic' in the autumn. While the ethical principles underlying issues such as prioritisation can be considered in advance, their implications would have to be reviewed in light of emerging scientific developments and/or other information available at the time of a pandemic.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure an adequate supply of seasonal flu vaccines for the winter 2007-08 flu immunisation programme; what discussions he has had with flu vaccine manufacturers on their capacity to supply adequate stocks of vaccine; which manufacturers are supplying vaccine to the UK; what information he has received about flu vaccine manufacturers encountering difficulties in *(a)* manufacturing and *(b)* delivering vaccines; and if he will make a statement. [156414]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department meets with representatives from UK Vaccine Industry Group (UVIG) each year to discuss flu vaccine requirements for the United Kingdom. On 24 July 2007, Professor David Salisbury, Director of Immunisation, wrote to the profession saying that over 15 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine would be available for distribution in the UK.

Suppliers of flu vaccine to the UK for 2007-08 are Sanofi Pasteur MSD, Novartis Vaccines, GlaxoSmithKline, MASTA, Solvay and Wyeth vaccines.

The profession were alerted to the minor delays in distribution of vaccine from GSK and Novartis in the August and September edition of "Vaccine Update" respectively. Supply of flu vaccine to surgeries has already commenced.

Information Officers

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many press officers are employed by the National Clinical Assessment Service; [154463]

(2) how many press officers are employed by the National Patient Safety Agency. [154464]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) is a special health authority that was established in July 2001 to undertake various patient safety functions.

Since 1 April 2005, following the Department's Review of Arms Length Bodies, the Agency has also taken on additional responsibilities including those for the National Clinical Assessment Service (formerly the National Clinical Assessment Authority).

As at April 2007, two full-time press officers are employed by the NPSA to provide support across all the areas of its responsibility.

Intensive Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many intensive care beds there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by trust. [154272]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of critical care beds was not collected before March 1999. The biannual adult critical care provision census started in March 1999 with the latest census in July 2007. The data from each census have been placed in the Library. National health service trust mergers have taken place between 1999 and 2007 but each census covers organisations current at the time.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. [154166]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency employs two press officers.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reply to the letter to the Minister of State (Delivery and Quality) dated 21 May from the hon. Member for Hyndburn on Mrs. J. Hogan. [153790]

Dawn Primarolo: The reply was sent on 16 August 2007.

Meningitis: Vaccination

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the take-up rate of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine Prevenar has been since 4 September 2006; [155841]

(2) what studies have been commissioned into the effectiveness of Prevenar since 4 September 2006. [155842]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the pneumococcal vaccine uptake for children are currently being collected on behalf of the Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), and no robust analysis is available yet. Preliminary data from just over half of primary care trusts in England suggested that over 60 per cent. of children targeted in the catch-up campaign had received the vaccine. We do not yet know the level of uptake of the vaccine given as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme.

The impact of the vaccine has been very significant, with the number of cases of invasive pneumococcal disease in children, caused by any one of the seven serotypes contained in the vaccine, falling since the introduction of the new vaccine a year ago. The latest data are available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/pneumococcal/default.htm

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to increase awareness of the Prevenar vaccine. [155843]

Dawn Primarolo: A public awareness campaign ran in September 2006 in support of the introduction of the pneumococcal vaccine. The new vaccine was publicised through television, radio and press advertising and an information pack was available for parents and health professionals.

There is a section on the immunisation.nhs.uk website about pneumococcal vaccines, and a leaflet on the pneumococcal catch-up programme has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk/files/275877_Catch-upleaflet.pdf

The pneumococcal vaccine is now part of the routine immunisation programme and is described in the Guide to childhood immunisations leaflet, available from general practitioner surgeries. Information and advice is also offered on this and other vaccines by health professionals before immunisations are given.

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated required number of midwives is in each of the next five years; [154475]

(2) what percentage of midwives are due to retire in each of the next five years; and how many new midwives are planned to be recruited in each year. [154477]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not collect information on the estimated numbers of retirements for midwives, this is a matter for strategic health authorities to build into their local workforce plans as they are best placed to assess the midwifery needs of their local population.

As part of NHS Operating Framework for 2007-08, local organisations are reviewing their workforce capacity and may identify the need to invest in their maternity services and increase staffing levels.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [154159]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of press officers employed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is not held by the Department. NICE is an independent body and should be contacted direct for this information.

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse. [154557]

Dawn Primarolo: There is one press officer employed at the National Treatment Agency.

Neurology: Manpower

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the numbers of *(a)* adult neurologists, *(b)* paediatric neurologists, *(c)* learning disability specialists and *(d)* neuro-radiologists in the next 10 years; and whether there are targets for the number of consultants in each case. [153972]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the work force contribution to delivering the NHS improvement plan, we are moving away from an emphasis on centrally prescribed national targets to a reliance on credible local plans to maximise work force capacity to support delivery.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to analyse their local situation and develop plans, in liaison with their local national health service trusts and primary care providers, to deliver high quality NHS services and take action to recruit the appropriate staff required to deliver these services.

The following table shows the number of medical staff in neurology has increased by 372 or 59 per cent. since 1997.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical staff working within the neurology specialty by grade and year, England as at 30 September each year

	Number (headcount) and full-time equivalents			
	1997		*2006*	
	Number	*FTE*	*Number*	*FTE*
All staff	638	555	1,012	892
Consultant	278	246	506	455
Associate specialist	6	5	16	11
Staff grade	6	6	20	14
Registrar group	159	138	231	208
Senior house officer	141	140	163	157
Foundation Year 2	n/a	n/a	28	28
House officer and foundation programme year 1	10	10	8	8
Hospital practitioner/clinical assistant	37	11	40	10
Other staff	1	0	[1]—	[1]—

n/a = denotes not applicable
[1]— = denotes zero
0 = denotes more than zero, less than one
Source:
Information Centre, Medical and Dental Workforce Census

NHS Connecting for Health

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 885W, on NHS Connecting for Health, which communications agency established the link; how much Connecting for Health has paid that agency; and which other communications agencies have had contracts with Connecting for Health, and at what value. [154652]

Mr. Bradshaw: The communications agency concerned is Good Relations. Payments made to the agency for services provided to NHS Connecting for Health from 1 April 2005, when NHS Connecting for Health came into being, to 26 September 2007, total £509,263 including VAT.

NHS Connecting for Health also holds, or has held, contacts with Fishburn Hedges, and with Porter Novelli, payments to whom, over the same period, total £2,881,595 including VAT.

NHS Connecting for Health recognises the need for clear and accurate communications with the public and other stakeholder groups, including national health service staff. A key priority for successful implementation of an effective, national information technology system—a central plank of national health service modernisation—is to ensure that the public and stakeholders are fully informed and have an awareness and understanding of the benefits. The agencies concerned were appointed to assist in this important communication process and to produce supporting materials.

The contracts have delivered value for money. Examples of outputs include videos to explain the new systems and services; exhibition stands and an outdoor exhibition trailer to support face-to-face engagement; millions of copies of associated guidance material, posters and information packs for NHS staff and patients; and implementation advice and case studies for local NHS bodies that demonstrate the value of the programme, how benefits can be realised and lessons learned from implementations.

NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement: Information Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement. [154668]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement employs two full-time press officers.

NHS Treatment Centres: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the development of independent sector treatment centres in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [154761]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is working with the national health service to review the specifications of schemes in Phase 2 of the central procurement process, including the proposed scheme for the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire area, to ensure that future schemes best meet the needs of the local NHS and are responsive to the needs of the communities in which they will operate. This exercise is ongoing and is expected to be completed in October. Once this process is complete, and all parties involved in negotiations have been informed of the outcomes, further information will be made available.

NHS Treatment Centres: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations, and from whom, have been received in support of an independent treatment centre in mid-Essex. [156493]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not keep data on the precise number of representations received on the specific issues. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has said that he expects to approve further independent sector schemes in coming months, and that they will only go forward where the local national health service supports their introduction.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the establishment of an Independent Treatment Centre in mid-Essex; and if he will make a statement. [156527]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is working with the national health service to review the specifications of the remaining schemes in Phase 2 of the central procurement process, including the proposed scheme for Essex, to ensure that future schemes best meet the needs of the local NHS, and are responsive to the needs of the communities in which they will operate. This exercise is ongoing, and expected to be completed in October. Once this process is complete, and all parties involved in negotiations have been informed of the outcomes, further information will be made available.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent establishing independent sector treatment centres. [154560]

Mr. Bradshaw: The costs of establishing Wave 1 and Phase 2 of the independent sector treatment centre programme are shown in the following table. Procurement costs cover all assessment, scoping, procurement and associated management, professional advisory and support costs.

Wave 1 and phase 2 procurement costs

£ million

	Wave 1	*Phase 2*
2006-07	2.2	38.6
2005-06	12.4	26.5
2004-05	34.9	8
2003-04	23.4	—

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the analysis his Department has undertaken into the possible effects of the independent sector treatment centre programme on NHS facilities. [155865]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has undertaken analysis of the prospective impact of proposed Phase 2 schemes, but considers that it is not reasonable to place this information in the Library at this time, because the analyses concerned are still contributing to procurement processes, the outcomes of which remain subject to ministerial decisions which have yet to be made.

NHS: Billing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts *(a)* paid and *(b)* did not pay 95 per cent. of undisputed invoices within contract terms or 30 days where no terms have been agreed in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; and what the total value was of those invoices in each case. [155867]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information has been placed in the Library.

NHS: DHL

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value of the capital equipment was in the 10 prime categories signed over to DHL in the NHS supply chain contract. [154650]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service capital spend in the 10 prime categories has not been signed over to DHL.

The approximate value of NHS capital spend in the 10 prime categories managed by DHL in the NHS supply chain contract is £2 - £2.25 billion. This means that DHL has the opportunity to offer to manage this spend on behalf of individual NHS trusts and foundation trusts.

NHS: Exel Europe

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of the key performance indicators contained within the master services agreement between Exel Europe Limited and the NHS Business Services Authority for the operation of the NHS supply chain will be published by or under the authority of his Department on an annual basis; and if he will make a statement. [154648]

Mr. Bradshaw: The chief executive of the NHS Business Services Authority (Nick Scholte) has written to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question and a copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capital and revenue costs of implementing the Healthy Futures and Making it Better proposals are over the next five years itemised by primary care trust. [156507]

Ann Keen: The consultation teams for Making it Better and Healthy Futures are currently in the early stages of planning and scoping their implementation programmes and activities.

As part of the planning stage of the implementation programme, capital and revenue costs of these changes, as well as taking into account any recommendations by the Secretary of State will be reviewed.

At present the costs have not been finalised.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 10 prime categories of the NHS supply chain contract are. [154651]

Mr. Bradshaw: The prime categories of the NHS supply chain contract are:

Category
Medical supplies
Food and kitchen
Print and stationery
Laundry and cleaning
Bedding and linen
Dressings
Uniforms and clothing
Patient appliances
Laboratory equipment
Other equipment
Furniture/office and computer equipment

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many submissions were received during the evidence-gathering phase for the development of the Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2008-09; how many of these were received from *(a)* national societies, *(b)* patient groups, *(c)* pharmaceutical companies, *(d)* individuals, *(e)* primary care organisations and *(f)* others; and how many related to each type of disease. [156413]

Mr. Bradshaw: The team of experts appointed by NHS Employers and the British Medical Association (BMA) to inform the ongoing review and development of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) received 153 submissions in its latest round of evidence gathering. NHS Employers have announced that the breakdown of source of the submissions was as follows: national societies (27 per cent.), patient groups (25 per cent.), pharmaceutical companies (13 per cent.), individuals (15 per cent.), primary care organisations (10 per cent.), others (10 per cent.).

Any changes to the QOF depend on wider discussions between NHS Employers and the BMA about the General Medical Services contract. The advice given to the negotiating parties by the expert panel and further details of the submissions received, including the number related to each type of disease, are confidential to the negotiations.

Obesity: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the *(a)* obesity and *(b)* smoking rate in each ward of the Peterborough city council area. [154067]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimated prevalence of obesity and smoking among adults aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals are provided for the wards in the Peterborough local authority. These estimates are taken from the Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours and are published on the Neighbourhood Statistics website at:

www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Download1.do

These estimates are for the combined years 2000-02 and are shown in table 1 and table 2.

Table 1: Estimated prevalence of obesity among adults, by ward in the Peterborough local authority area, 2000-02

Percentage

	Estimated prevalence of obesity	*95 per cent. lower confidence interval*	*95 per cent. upper confidence interval*	*Comparison of estimated prevalence for obesity with national estimate[1]*
Barnack	18.8	12.5	26.9	2
Bretton North	25.8	17.8	35.3	2
Bretton South	23.1	15.7	32.1	2
Central	24.7	17.1	34.1	2
Dogsthorpe	27.9	19.5	37.9	2
East	25.2	17.5	34.7	2

Table 1: Estimated prevalence of obesity among adults, by ward in the Peterborough local authority area, 2000-02

Percentage

	Estimated prevalence of obesity	*95 per cent. lower confidence interval*	*95 per cent. upper confidence interval*	*Comparison of estimated prevalence for obesity with national estimate*[1]
Eye and Thorney	26.6	18.6	36.5	2
Fletton	23.9	16.5	33.2	2
Glinton and Wittering	21.1	14.2	29.7	2
Newborough	24.1	16.6	33.6	2
North	26.6	18.5	36.3	2
Northborough	22.5	15.3	31.6	2
Orton Longueville	25.9	17.9	35.5	2
Orton Waterville	21.1	14.4	29.7	2
Orton with Hampton	20.0	13.5	28.4	2
Park	21.4	14.6	30.1	2
Paston	26.2	18.2	35.8	2
Ravensthorpe	28.1	19.5	38.1	2
Stanground Central	25.9	18.0	35.5	2
Stanground East	23.8	16.4	33.1	2
Walton	24.8	17.2	34.1	2
Werrington North	22.2	15.2	31.2	2
Werrington South	22.9	15.8	31.9	2
West	19.6	13.2	27.8	2

Table 2: Estimated prevalence of smoking among adults, by ward in the Peterborough local authority area, 2000-02

Percentage

	Estimated prevalence of smoking	*95 per cent. lower confidence interval*	*95 per cent. upper confidence interval*	*Comparison of estimated prevalence for smoking with national estimate*[1]
Barnack	13.0	7.4	21.8	1
Bretton North	34.8	22.2	49.9	2
Bretton South	23.5	14.1	36.4	2
Central	24.7	14.8	38.2	2
Dogsthorpe	35.3	22.6	50.4	2
East	35.0	22.5	50.2	2
Eye and Thorney	21.6	12.9	33.9	2
Fletton	36.5	23.6	51.9	2
Glinton and Wittering	18.4	10.7	29.5	2
Newborough	21.1	12.4	33.5	2
North	31.9	20.2	46.6	2
Northborough	15.5	8.9	25.5	2
Orton Longueville	31.8	20.0	46.5	2
Orton Waterville	19.4	11.4	31.0	2
Orton with Hampton	21.0	12.4	33.4	2
Park	20.6	12.1	32.5	2
Paston	34.5	22.0	49.6	2
Ravensthorpe	33.5	21.1	48.5	2
Stanground Central	27.5	16.9	41.6	2
Stanground East	26.4	16.1	40.3	2
Walton	28.8	17.8	42.8	2
Werrington North	24.7	14.8	38.2	2
Werrington South	16.5	9.6	26.8	2
West	14.3	8.2	23.8	1

[1] It should be noted that the scores for comparing the synthetic estimate to the national estimate relate to the data as follows: 1=CI significantly below NE, 2=overlapping, 3=CI significantly above NE. The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2000-02 (with associated confidence intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.

Source:

Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours at Ward Level, 2000-02. Neighbourhood Statistics, Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Paediatrics: Doctors

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many junior paediatric doctors are working in the NHS by *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent. [154793]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of junior doctors in the paediatric specialty is shown in the following table.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) : medical and dental staff showing doctors in training grades working in a paediatric specialty— England as at 30 September 2006

Number (headcount) and full time equivalents (Fte)

	All paediatric specialties		*Paediatric cardiology*		*Paediatric dentistry*		*Paediatric surgery*		*Paediatrics*	
	No.	*Fte*	*No.*	*Fte*	*No.*	*Fte*	*No.*	*Fte*	*No.*	*Fte*
Doctors in training	4,222	4,110	61	60	24	23	194	192	3,943	3,834
Registrar Group	1,849	1,756	36	35	18	17	95	94	1,700	1,610
Senior house officer	2,022	2,004	25	25	6	6	81	81	1,910	1,892
Foundation Year 2	214	214	0	0	0	0	10	10	204	204
House officer	137	137	0	0	0	0	8	8	129	129

Note:
The training grades include junior doctors in trust grade posts.
Source:
The Information Centre (IC), Medical and Dental Workforce Census. All rights reserved.

Patientline

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the NHS's contract with Patientline. [155868]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no single national health service contract with Patientline. Patientline's contracts are tailored to each NHS trust according to its specific needs.

Patients: Foreigners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients treated by the NHS in each year since 2003 were foreign nationals resident in the UK. [156312]

Dawn Primarolo: Successive Governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the numbers of foreign nationals who are treated by the NHS, including those who are resident in the United Kingdom. It is therefore not possible to provide the information requested.

Pharmacy

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the prospects for local pharmacies to operate a minor ailments service; whether he expects primary care trusts to promote such a service; and if he will make a statement. [155788]

Dawn Primarolo: In "Building on the Best: Choice, Responsiveness and Equity in the NHS", which was published in December 2003, the Department said that it expected all primary care trusts to consider commissioning pharmacist-led minor ailments services so that patients, who would otherwise have gone to their general practitioner for a medicine for a minor ailment, could get that medicine on the national health service from their community pharmacy.

Primary care trusts assess the health needs their population and commission services to meet those needs, in accordance with local priorities and finite resources.

Princess Royal Hospital Telford

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds there are at the Princess Royal hospital at Telford. [155790]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not centrally available, as the Department does not collect bed data at hospital level. However, this data is available at national health service trust level.

In 2006-07, the latest period for which data is available, there was an average daily number of 853 available beds provided by Shrewsbury and Telford hospital NHS trust. These consisted of beds open overnight and day only beds.

Source:
Department of Health KH03 return.

Recombinant Factor VII

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 273W, on Recombinant Factor VII, what the service level is between his Department and each strategic health authority for the provision of Recombinant Factor VII. [154654]

Dawn Primarolo: The service level agreement between the Department and each strategic health authority is for the provision of recombinant clotting factors. This includes Recombinant Factor VII and Factor VIII. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 992W.

Ritalin

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to initiate research into possible *(a)* health and *(b)* psychological side effects associated with the use of the drug Ritalin. [156511]

Dawn Primarolo: The safety of the use of methylphenidate is kept under careful review by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in conjunction with other European regulatory authorities. In June 2007, at the request of

the European Commission, a Europe wide review of the safety of methylphenidate products, including the risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disorders, was initiated. As part of this review, the United Kingdom, on behalf of Europe, is in discussion with the pharmaceutical companies who manufacture methylphenidate products about the conduct of research to better characterise and further investigate the safety profile of methylphenidate. As new data emerge it will be carefully evaluated by the MHRA and where necessary current prescribing advice will be updated to reflect the new evidence.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure the use of Ritalin only as part of a comprehensive programme including social, psychological and behavioural treatments as recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [156512]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We fully support the advice given by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) in England on the use of drug therapy in treating children and young people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and expect the national health service to take this guidance into account when treating patients.

NICE have advised that drug therapy to treat ADHD, of which Ritalin is but one option, should only be part of a comprehensive treatment programme that includes a range of social, psychological and behavioural interventions. These are mainly aimed at the child, but sometimes involve the parents and/or teachers. NICE has recommended that drug therapy should only be initiated by an appropriately qualified healthcare professional with expertise in ADHD and should be based on a comprehensive assessment and diagnosis. Continued prescribing and monitoring of drug treatment may be performed by general practitioners, under shared care arrangements.

Psychological interventions that may be helpful include behavioural management, parent training, family and/or individual therapy, social skills training, cognitive behaviour therapy and problem solving techniques, among others. Careful, informed clinical decision-making, involving the parents and child should involve discussion of the benefits versus the risks of all interventions.

We have also asked NICE to develop a clinical guideline on both the pharmacological and psychological interventions to treat ADHD. The guideline will cover the care provided by primary, community and secondary healthcare professionals who have direct contact with, and make decisions concerning, the care of children, young people and adults with ADHD. The guideline will include:

care in general practice and NHS community care;

hospital out-patient and in-patient care;

primary/secondary interface of care; and

transition from childhood services to adult services.

Publication of the guideline is expected in July 2008.

Smoking: Health Services

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds have been made available for smoking cessation programmes; and how the allocations to individual funds are determined. [155948]

Dawn Primarolo: The total funding allocation for the NHS Stop Smoking Services is set out in the following table.

Financial allocations to the NHS for stop smoking services

	£ million
1979-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	10 (HAZs only)
2000-01	20 (10 HAZs, 10 Has)
2001-02	[1]23 (10 HAZ, 10 Has)
2002-03	[1]23
2003-04	41
2004-05	46
2005-06	51
2006-07	[2]56
2007-08	[2]56

HAZ= Health action zones.

[1] £3 million in 2001-02 and 2002-03 for smoking in pregnancy initiative.

[2] Including additional £5 million heavily weighted towards spearhead PCTs.

The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) separately identify £211 million in 2006-07 and £342 million in 2007-08, around half of the £1 billion promised, to support implementation of the Choosing Health White Paper. For the two years covered by this allocation, a total of £10 million has been identified nationally to invest in the NHS Stop Smoking Services initiative.

Funding to support the NHS Stop Smoking Services has been allocated to PCTs on a weighted capitation basis, with the majority of the funding directed towards Spearhead PCTs.

Information on individual PCT allocations has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/FinanceAndPlanning/Allocations/AllocationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4104471&chk=kDkAyL

Surgery: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many surgeons in the NHS were capable of carrying out *(a)* hepatobiliary, *(b)* renal, *(c)* cardiac and *(d)* ophthalmic surgery in each of the last 10 years; [154266]

(2) what plans the Government have to increase the number of *(a)* hepatobiliary, *(b)* renal, *(c)* cardiac and *(d)* ophthalmic surgeons in each of the next three years. [154267]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to analyse their local situation and develop plans, in liaison with their local NHS trusts and primary care providers, to deliver high quality NHS services and take action to recruit the appropriate staff required to deliver these services.

Surgery: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Peterborough constituency have had their inpatient surgical treatment cancelled three times or more in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [154691]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of last minute cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons at Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, for 2006-07 which are the latest data available.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

	Number
Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons	262
Number of urgent operations that were cancelled for a second or subsequent time for non clinical reasons	0

Notes:
1. A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation.
2. Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; administration error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.
3. Urgent operations are as defined by National Confidentially Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths. 'Immediate', 'Urgent' and 'Expedited' operations are included in the definition. However, 'Elective' operations are not included in the definition

Source:
Department of Health datasets: QMCO and Weekly Situation Reports

Transplant Surgery: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgeons in the NHS were capable of carrying out transplant surgery in each of the last 10 years. [154277]

Mr. Bradshaw: Transplant surgery is a sub-specialty of general surgery; the Information Centre for Health and Social Care does not collect information by sub-specialty.

The 2006 NHS workforce census showed there were 1,756 consultants working in the general surgery speciality, an increase of 578 or 49 per cent. since 1997.

University Hospital of North Staffordshire: Research

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies were undertaken at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire involving children from overseas in the 1990s. [154329]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not centrally held by the Department. The NHS West Midlands strategic health authority reports that University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust has recently written to the hon. Member following a similar request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Vaccines: Sleeping Contracts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 985W, on vaccines: sleeping contracts, when negotiations with the vaccine manufacturers were completed; with which vaccine manufacturers negotiations were held; whether the provision of pre-pandemic vaccines was discussed as part of the negotiations; whether the negotiations have implications for the public purse; and whether he expects to make the statement referred to in the answer alongside publication of an updated pandemic influenza preparedness plan. [154215]

Dawn Primarolo: Negotiations for the advanced supply contracts for pandemic specific vaccine were completed with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Baxter in May 2007 and the contracts became operational from 1 July 2007. The contracts are worth in total £155.4 million over four years, and are part of the continued work to prepare for and reduce the impact of a possible flu pandemic. Under these contracts GSK and Baxter are committed to supply a pandemic influenza vaccine to the United Kingdom as soon as the pandemic strain is identified and made available by the World Health Organisation.

Pre-pandemic vaccine did not form part of the negotiations.

A public announcement of the advanced supply agreements was made on 16 August 2007 and is reflected within the updated pandemic influenza preparedness plan which is due to be released shortly.

Westmorland Hospital: Mental Health Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the temporary closure of the adult mental health ward at Westmorland General Hospital could become permanent without a formal public consultation. [153651]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service organisations currently have a duty to involve and consult patients, the public and their representatives in the planning and development of services, and to consult them on changes to the operation of services.

Kentmere Ward at the Westmorland General is the responsibility of the Cumbria Partnership NHS trust. NHS North West reports that the ward has been closed temporarily on clinical safety grounds due to problems around recruitment to key posts. A recruitment exercise is currently under way.

Wi-Fi: Health Hazards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people suffering health problems as a result of Wi-Fi communications and *(b)* the causes of sensitivity to Wi-Fi technology; [154577]

(2) what assessment he has made of the health implications of Wi-Fi communications; [154578]

(3) what representations he has received about the potential health implications of Wi-Fi communications; [154579]

(4) if he will set up an inquiry into Wi-Fi communications and their environmental and health impact. [154582]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is advised by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on Wi-Fi or similar wireless (WLAN) technology and health issues.

Current advice from the HPA is that

"There is no consistent evidence to date that Wi-Fi and WLANs adversely affect the health of the general population. The signals are very low power, typically 0.1 watt (100 milliwatts) in both the computer and the router (access point) and the results so far show exposures are well within internationally accepted International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines. Based on current knowledge and experience, radio frequency exposures from Wi-Fi are likely to be lower than those from mobile phones. Also, the frequencies used in Wi-Fi are broadly the same as those from traditional radiofrequency applications.".

On the basis of this advice the Department believes it is not feasible to conduct any further estimates of the numbers affected.

The HPA statement on Wi-Fi is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/radiation_topics/emf/wifi.htm.

In 2005 the HPA published a review of electrical sensitivity. This is a condition which some people attribute to exposure to electromagnetic fields associated with the electricity supply and electrical equipment. The review notes that although the symptoms are attributed to exposure to various types of electromagnetic fields, there is no proven scientific link between such exposures and symptoms. A number of studies have looked for diagnostic markers for electrical sensitivity but no consistent marker has been found. The HPA report entitled "Definition, Epidemiology and Management of Electrical Sensitivity" is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/hpa_rpd_reports/2005/hpa_rpd_010.htm.

From May to September this year the Department has replied to four parliamentary questions, four items of correspondence from organisations and twelve from members of the public that have cited Wi-Fi equipment as a cause of health problems including the disturbing symptoms referred to as electrical sensitivity.

The Department is not planning an inquiry into Wi-Fi but the HPA is announcing a programme of work on Wi-Fi and WLAN installations such as those used in schools and homes. Discussions are underway with partner agencies, especially those in the education sector. This project aims to systematically investigate the types of Wi-Fi equipment in use and produce information on exposures to radio signals from wireless computer networks.

An HPA fact sheet on Wi-Fi is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/radiation_topics/emf/wlans.htm.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Balen Report

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the BBC on the publication of the Balen Report. [156720]

James Purnell: None. The decision on whether to publish the Balen Report is a matter for the BBC.

Betting

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to produce a response to the conclusions of the working group on regulation and administration of on-course betting before publication of the consultation document that he referred to in his speech in Westminster Hall on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 259WH; and if he will make a statement. [153427]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not intend to produce a separate response to the conclusions of the working group, which are presently out to consultation on the National Joint Pitch Council's website www.njpc-ltd.co.uk. The future administrative arrangements for on-course bookmaking are for the bookmaking and racing industries to agree between themselves; it would not be appropriate for Government to favour one alternative above another. However, we understand the importance of those working in the bookmaking industry being able to comment on what is proposed, and so my officials have worked with the group to ensure that its conclusions are expressed in a logical and transparent format.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the Gambling Act 2005 on bookmakers' on-course pitch positions; what recent discussions he has had with the Racecourse Association on this topic; and if he will make a statement. [154441]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As I indicated during the Westminster Hall debate on this subject on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 237-60WH, and subsequently when I wrote on 25 July to hon. Members with an interest in this matter, the Government do not accept that the Gambling Act 2005 has had a direct effect on bookmakers' on-course pitch positions. No property has changed hands under the Act itself, nor does the Act abolish the National Pitch Rules or the National Joint Pitch Council. It remains open for racecourses, individually or collectively, to use the next five years to negotiate a commercial arrangement which is satisfactory to both sides.

I have had no discussions with the Racecourse Association on this topic, but intend to meet the Association and on-course bookmakers' representatives shortly.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many fixed odds betting terminals are currently in use in England; [156233]

(2) what Government policy is on the availability of fixed odds betting terminals; and if he will make a statement. [156234]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Gambling Act fixed odds betting terminals have been classified as category B2 gaming machines. The Gambling Commission's annual report 2006-07 estimates that there are 24,500 such machines located in licensed betting premises.

As a result of the Gambling Act 2005 these machines are now strictly regulated alongside other gaming machines for the first time. They are required to abide by strict limits on stakes and prizes (£100 and £500 respectively). The machines also have to comply with regulations, set by the Department, controlling the circumstances in which they are made available for use, and with technical standards set by the Gambling Commission. These include requirements to display information about where customers may obtain advice about gambling problems and a minimum game cycle duration.

B2 gaming machines may only be made available in the heavily regulated environment of casinos and licensed betting premises, both of which may be accessed by adults only. Casinos may offer a maximum of 20 gaming machines of up to category B1 and licensed betting premises a maximumeof four gaming machines of up to category B2.

Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Big Lottery Fund grants went to statutory bodies in each year for which figures are available. [153314]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following figures reflect the amount and percentage of grants awarded to statutory bodies in each year. They include awards under the Big Lottery Fund's new programmes introduced since June 2004 and legacy programmes inherited from the Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund.

Financial year (ending 31 March)	*Amount awarded to statutory bodies (£)*	*Percentage of grants awarded to statutory bodies*
2004	391,257,825	43.9
2005	406,007,513	57.1
2006	52,820,765	11.0
2007	33,695,507	10.6

The Big Lottery Fund was created in June 2004. The definition of Statutory Bodies used covers the European regional development fund, further or higher education or university, local government, non-departmental public bodies, parish councils, public corporations, state schools and statutory health bodies.

The Big Lottery Fund has given an undertaking that, under its new programmes, 60-70 per cent. of the funding will go to the third sector. Between June 2004 and March 2007, the figure for third sector awards under new programmes has been 77 per cent. 23 per cent. has gone to the statutory sector.

Big Lottery Fund: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects were awarded funding by the Big Lottery Fund in each of the last five years in Wirral, broken down by constituency. [154799]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures reflect the amount awarded and the number of awards made by the Big Lottery Fund in each of the last five years in Wirral broken down by constituency.

	Wirral West	*Wirral South*	*Birkenhead*	*Wallasey*
2003-04				
Amount awarded (£)	111,020	908,793	695,869	767,663
Number of awards made	17	13	19	17
2004-05				
Amount awarded (£)	71,699	604,930	4,060,814	248,651
Number of awards made	39	31	36	38
2005-06				
Amount awarded (£)	200,989	207,395	1,942,199	231,043
Number of awards made	34	29	46	35
2006-07				
Amount awarded (£)	81,504	69,025	258,917	88,942
Number of awards made	14	10	22	17
YTD 2007				
Amount awarded (£)	50,456	54,499	814,848	222,511
Number of awards made	8	9	8	10
Total of amounts awarded (£)	515,668	1,844,642	7,772,647	1,558,810
Total number of awards made	112	92	131	117

The names of the projects funded can be obtained from the Big Lottery Fund website at:

http://www.biglotteryfundgrants.org.uk:8080/grant-search/gs_001.xsql

Bookmakers: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average cost of a bookmaker's premises licence is in each local authority in England and Wales. [155610]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not gather information on the average cost of a bookmaker's premises licences in each local authority in England and Wales. The Secretary of State has set maximum fee levels for all classes and types of premises licence. The Gambling (Premises Licence Fees) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 479) require licensing authorities in England and Wales to determine the fee for each type of licence on a cost recovery basis.

British Casino Association

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the British Casino Gambling Association since the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1438. [156016]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and officials from the Department meet regularly with representatives of the British Casino Association to discuss all aspects of casino policy.

I met representatives of the British Casino Association on 26 July 2007.

Casinos

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by local authorities in preparing bids for *(a)* small, *(b)* regional and *(c)* super casinos. [155612]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The decision to apply to the casino advisory panel was a matter for the local authorities concerned. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold information about how much was spent by local authorities in preparing applications.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Government's plans are for the establishment of super, large and small casinos as laid out in the Gambling Act 2005. [156019]

James Purnell: I set out the next steps in my written statement to the House on 16 July.

Climbing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people regularly using indoor climbing walls. [156637]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the 2005-06 Sport England Active People survey showed that 37,710 adults (16 years and over) participated at least once in the last four weeks in indoor climbing.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people who regularly take part in mountaineering, including rock climbing and fell walking. [156638]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the 2005-06 Sport England 'Active People' survey showed that 146,600 adults (16 years and over) regularly participated in mountaineering including climbing and fell walking. 'Active People' regards participating at least once in the last four weeks as regular participation.

Community Development: Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public money was spent via the Community Investment Fund in each year for which figures are available. [156198]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In each of the following years, the value of commitments made by Sport England through the Community Investment Fund was:

	£ million
2004	2
2005	19
2006	20
2007	51

Culture

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set out his Department's existing targets in the cultural area of its responsibilities. [156707]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's 2007 annual report sets out all of DCMS's existing targets (including those in the cultural area of its responsibilities) and progress against them.

The report is available on DCMS's public website, via the link as follows:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Annual_Reports/ar_2007.htm

Hard copies of the annual report can also be found in the House Libraries.

The next formal statement of progress against the full set of DCMS targets will be published in December 2007 in the form of the Department's annual autumn performance report.

Digital Broadcasting

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what spectrum bands will be available for Programme Making and Special Events use following the switchover to digital television broadcasting; and if he will make a statement; [153652]

(2) when he expects Ofcom to provide the programme making and special events sector with the digital switchover map; and if he will make a statement. [154080]

James Purnell: Ofcom's consultation of 20 June 2007 on PMSE issues arising from the Digital Switchover (DSO), made proposals that would ensure access for the PMSE sector to the spectrum that will be interleaved with Digital Terrestrial Television after DSO. Although no decisions will be made until later in the year, Ofcom will provide as much information as possible on the frequencies that will make up this Digital Interleaved Spectrum as soon as it is available.

Digital Broadcasting: Multiple Occupation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he made of the preparedness of landlords of *(a)* privately rented multi-dwelling units and *(b)* social multi-dwelling units who, in preparation for the digital switchover for the dwelling units for which they are responsible (i) have upgraded the television system, (ii) have specific plans to do so and (iii) are unaware of the technical options or actions they need to take to make the transition to digital; and if he will make a statement. [154897]

James Purnell: Responsibility for upgrading communal television systems is a matter for landlords in consultation with residents. Digital UK is responsible for communicating with landlords and property managers in order to increase awareness and understanding about what they need to do to prepare for switchover.

The Government published research in 2005 and 2007 which looked at the readiness of communal television systems provided by social landlords. The most recent research carried out by BMRB[1] and published in January 2007 showed an increase in the level of upgrade work since the 2005 survey with 32 per cent. of organisations in the process of completing the upgrade of all systems and nearly 50 per cent. having completed the upgrade of at least 30 per cent. of systems. Digital UK continues to map subsequent progress in the social sector through regional meetings and direct communications with social landlords.

Collecting information on private sector landlords is much more difficult given the diversity of the sector. Digital UK collects information on awareness of digital switchover and conversion to digital television through the quarterly tracker survey. The most recent tracker survey[2] reports that digital conversion for households who live in flats is around 74 per cent. compared to digital take up of 80 per cent. across all tenures. Digital UK is continuing a targeted information campaign aimed at residents' associations and flat-dwellers in the first four regions scheduled for switchover, as well as communicating directly with private landlords.

[1] Communal TV Systems and Preparation for Digital Switchover—BMRB December 2006.

[2] Digital Switchover Tracker Survey Switchover Progress Report Q2 2007 Ofcom and Digital UK August 2007.

Digital Broadcasting: Sight Impaired

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many blind and partially-sighted people are able to use teletext without the assistance of others; whether he estimates this number will change following the digital switchover; and if he will make a statement. [156191]

James Purnell: We have not made any estimation of the number of blind and partially sighted people who are able to use Teletext without the assistance of others and it would be difficult to do so.

I recognise the impact that switching to digital television may have on those who rely on equipment that translates analogue written Teletext into audible speech as this piece of equipment will not work with digital text services. This should be balanced against the wider benefit that switchover brings of the provision of audio description services for blind and partially sighted people on terrestrial television.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representation he has received from Portset on digital switchover and assistance for blind people to access teletext services. [156193]

James Purnell: I have received no representations from Portset, which manufactures Talking Teletext equipment that translates written teletext into audible speech.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the impact of the digital switchover on blind and partially-sighted persons. [156194]

James Purnell: A regulatory impact assessment was published in September 2005 setting out a detailed assessment of the impact of digital switchover on consumers, particularly elderly people and those with a disability. We have taken steps to address the disadvantages that these groups face as a result of switchover, primarily through the digital switchover help scheme. The scheme includes all households where one person is registered blind or is registered partially sighted. Those who are not registered, but are 75 years or over will also be eligible for help.

We will continue to monitor and review the Government's policy on switchover for equality impact, including ongoing consultation with the RNIB and other organisations representing blind and partially sighted people, and are in the process of undertaking a full equalities impact assessment.

Digital Broadcasting: Weather

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what performance standards apply to the BBC with respect to ensuring continuity of service on the digital platform during extreme weather incidents; and what the contractual timeframe requirement is for achieving restoration of service following such weather incidents; [154191]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of residences which suffered sustained loss of the BBC digital signal *(a)* during and *(b)* in the week following the recent extreme weather conditions; and if he will make a statement. [154193]

James Purnell: This is a matter for the BBC. The BBC's charter specifies that the BBC must do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure viewers, listeners and other users are able to access the UK public services that are intended for them. The charter does not set specific performance standards in relation to continuity of service in the event of extreme weather incidents and Government have made no assessment of the number of residences which suffered loss of the BBC digital signal. I understand from the BBC that they work hard to restore transmission services in the event of any disruption as soon as possible.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the reliability of the digital signal transmitting both radio and television broadcasts in periods of and following extreme weather conditions; and what plans he has to ensure security of service following digital switchover. [154192]

James Purnell: This Department has not made any assessment of the aforementioned issues. However, there is extensive research available about digital broadcasting characteristics.

The technology used for broadcasting digital radio and television signals has been standardised by the European Standards body ETSI and allows broadcasters to strike a balance between robustness in adverse reception conditions against the number of services that can be broadcast.

Digital television signals are constrained at present so as not to cause interference to analogue services. This can lead to digital appearing to perform unfavourably. After switchover, power levels for digital signals will be boosted to their full capacity.

Gambling

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to ensure that remote gambling operators operate legally with respect to the location of servers in advance of the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 in September 2007. [154800]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Before 1 September 2007, under the Gaming Act 1968, it was illegal to provide gaming by remote means where the gaming operator was based in Great Britain.

From 1 September, offering remote gaming from Great Britain is permitted, and remote operators licensed under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) will be subject to requirements as to where they may locate their remote gambling equipment. Section 36(4) of the Act defines the types of equipment considered to be key equipment for the provision of gambling facilities. As part of the licence application process, the physical location of each piece of key equipment, including servers, must be stated and is then assessed by the Gambling Commission to ensure its location is acceptable and to enable effective regulation.

From 1 September 2007, the Gambling Commission will carry out compliance visits to the operator's premises to ensure the location of equipment, including servers, is in accordance with their licence.

It will be an offence under section 33 of the Act for an operator to provide facilities for gambling unless they hold the relevant licence.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a working group was formed at the international conference on online gambling held at Ascot in October 2006. [155648]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following the International Remote Gambling summit in 2006, the Department will continue to build on its work with European partners and other international regulators to ensure high regulatory standards and encourage the adoption of measures to protect children and vulnerable people, keep crime out and keep gambling fair.

We are considering with the Gambling Commission the option of an international working group to take this work forward.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role his Department played in the Gambling Commission's 2007 Prevalence Survey on problem gambling. [155761]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007 is an independent study which was overseen by the Gambling Commission and undertaken by the National Centre for Social Research. Officials from the Department were members of the steering group which was set up to help contribute to the delivery of the report. Other representatives included the Department of Health, Responsibility in Gambling Trust and the National Lottery Commission.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date his Department first received the Gambling Commission's 2007 Prevalence Survey on problem gambling. [155762]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Officials received the British Gambling Prevalence Survey on 10 September. Ministers received a copy of the survey on 17 September.

Gambling Commission

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Gambling Commission's enforcement powers with respect to breaches of regulations; and if he will make a statement. [154801]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The enforcement powers under the Gambling Act 2005 came into force on 1 September 2007 and it is too early to assess their effectiveness. The Gambling Commission has been given wide-ranging enforcement powers and I expect it to use them fairly and proportionately.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the running costs of the Gambling Commission are in 2007-08; and how many staff are employed at the commission. [156159]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 4 October 2007]:* For 2007-08 the total running costs of the Gambling Commission are budgeted at £15.5 million. Currently the commission has 248 employees, but this is expected to fall to a steady state of around 200 by April 2008.

Gambling: Broadcasting

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the legality under the terms of the Gaming Act 1968 of the operation of LiveRoulette broadcast on Freeview and Sky and its website www.liveroulette.com. [154797]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has recently received one representation on the legality of the operation of LiveRoulette broadcast and website under the terms of the Gaming Act 1968. LiveRoulette operated by virtue of a bookmaker's permit issued in accordance with the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963.

Under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005, LiveRoulette will require a remote casino operating licence from the Gambling Commission and be required to comply with the relevant licence conditions and codes of practice.

Gambling: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which countries *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have met to discuss online gaming; and on what dates these meetings took place. [155763]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and officials from DCMS regularly meet their counterparts from other countries to discuss gambling issues, including online gaming. Ministers and officials met representatives from 31 other jurisdictions which attended an International Summit on Remote Gambling at Ascot Racecourse on 31 October 2006.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with representatives from the EU on internet gambling regulations. [155764]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Officials from my Department keep closely in touch with officials from other Departments, such as the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and officials in the European Commission on developments affecting remote gambling. Officials from DCMS and the Gambling Commission are also represented on the Gaming Regulators European Forum (GREF) which includes representatives from most European Union member states.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to introduce EU regulations for online gambling. [156017]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am not aware of any plans by the European Commission to introduce regulations in respect of online gambling.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria are applied in respect of the minimum age at which people are permitted to gamble using an online company when decisions are made about whether that company may advertise on British television. [156018]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are not responsible for decisions about which individual companies may or may not advertise on British television. The only gambling operators that are permitted to advertise on television are those licensed by the Gambling Commission in Great Britain or licensed in the European Economic Area (EEA) or licensed in a jurisdiction that the Government has decided to treat as if it were in the EEA for the purposes of gambling advertising—this is known as 'white listing.'

All gambling operators licensed in Great Britain are subject to the Gambling Act 2005 which makes it an offence for operators to offer online gambling to children and young people under the age of 18. It is also an offence under the Act for a young person to gamble online. In addition, the Government have set strict criteria for 'white listed' jurisdictions about the protection of children and vulnerable people. All jurisdictions currently on the 'white list' have a minimum age for gambling of 18.

It is also an offence under the Gambling Act 2005 if a person brings to the attention of a child or young person information about gambling with a view to encouraging the child or young person to gamble. The Gambling Commission has powers under the Gambling Act to prosecute any person in respect of this offence.

The Advertising Standards Authority's (ASA) new codes of practice for gambling advertisers put in place strict controls to prohibit gambling advertising during or around children's programmes or programmes commissioned for, principally directed at or likely to appeal particularly to audiences below the age of 18. The gambling industry has agreed to abide by a voluntary ban on television gambling advertising before 9pm (with the exception of sports betting advertising during sports programmes).

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications have been received for remote gambling operating licences from companies *(a)* based in the UK and *(b)* from outside the UK. [156523]

Mr. Sutcliffe: By 4 October 2007, the Gambling Commission had received 175 applications for remote gambling operating licences. Of those applicants, 173 have a registered office in the UK, one in Dublin and one in Malta.

Gambling: Research

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research his Department has commissioned into problem gambling in the last five years. [155767]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	Title	*Organisation/author*	*Summary*	*Where published*
2006	A Literature Review and Survey of Statistical Sources on Remote Gambling	RSe Consulting	An overview of remote gambling with section on problem gambling.	On DCMS website
2006	Two peer reviews of: Europe Economics: Fixed Odds Betting Terminals(FOBT) and the Code of Practice: Round 2 Research: A Report for the Association of British Bookmakers Ltd	Prof. Linda Hancocks Dr. Gerda Reiths	The original report looked at levels of problem gambling among FOBT users.	On DCMS website

	Title	Organisation/author	Summary	Where published
2004	Young People and Gambling in Britain: A systematic and critical review of the research literature relating to gaming machine, lottery and pools coupons practice by children and young people under 18	Lancaster University	The review looked at problem gambling among other issues.	On DCMS website

Information Officers: Arts Council England

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by Arts Council England. [154681]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England does not employ press officers. Instead, they employ staff with responsibility for communicating with the media as part of their wider role in the organisation. Two of these members of staff are based at the national office and 18 across the regional offices.

Information Officers: Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the Big Lottery Fund. [154128]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Big Lottery Fund currently employs eight full-time press officers.

Information Officers: British Film Institute

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the British Film Institute. [154418]

Margaret Hodge: The British Film Institute employs five full-time equivalent (FTE) press officers. This includes one communications manager who deals with press 50 per cent. of the time and one corporate and public affairs person who deals with press 50 per cent. of the time.

Information Officers: British Library

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the British Library. [154717]

Margaret Hodge: The British Library employs four full-time press officers and one free-lance press officer for the exhibition "Sacred".

Information Officers: British Museum

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the British Museum. [154675]

Margaret Hodge: The British Museum employs two press officers.

Information Officers: Heritage Lottery Fund

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the Heritage Lottery Fund. [154460]

Margaret Hodge: The Heritage Lottery Fund employs three press officers.

Information Officers: Historic Royal Palaces

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by Historic Royal Palaces. [154168]

Margaret Hodge: Historic Royal Palaces has one senior press officer, two public relations managers and a Head of Communications. They are all full-time and, in addition to their duties liaising with the press, these officers deal with both public enquiries and media enquiries, such as those concerned with filming at the Palaces.

Information Officers: Museums Libraries and Archives Council

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [154165]

Margaret Hodge: Two.

Information Officers: National Lottery Commission

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the National Lottery Commission. [154164]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Lottery Commission employs two communications officers. Part of their job is to deal with press inquiries.

Information Officers: Natural History Museum

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the Natural History Museum. [154733]

Margaret Hodge: The Natural History Museum employs four press officers.

Information Officers: Royal Parks

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by Royal Parks. [154658]

Margaret Hodge: The Royal Parks has one full-time press officer and a communications manager who deals with press issues occasionally.

Information Officers: Science Museum

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the Science Museum. [154734]

Margaret Hodge: The Science Museum employs three full-time press officers and one part-time press officer.

Information Officers: Sport England

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by Sport England. [154468]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England currently employs 6.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) press officers.

This takes into account a percentage of press work done in each of Sport England's regions.

Information Officers: Sports Council for Wales

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the Sports Council for Wales. [154156]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This is a devolved matter which is the responsibility of the National Assembly for Wales.

Information Officers: UK Film Council

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the UK Film Council. [154144]

Margaret Hodge: The UK Film Council employs 1.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) press officers. This is made up of:

0.5 FTE: one part-time press officer

0.5 FTE: 50 per cent. of the Press and Public Affairs Manager

0.3 FTE: 30 per cent. of an industry relations role

0.2 FTE: 20 per cent. of the Head of Communications

Information Officers: UK Sport

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by UK Sport. [154155]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport's Communications Team employs five members of staff covering all aspects of communications including press.

Information Officers: Victoria and Albert Museum

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by the Victoria and Albert museum. [154417]

Margaret Hodge: The Victoria and Albert museum employs three press officers.

Information Officers: VisitBritain

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by VisitBritain. [154147]

Margaret Hodge: There are 8.5 posts under VisitBritain's head of press and PR delivering the organisation's England, international and corporate press and public relations functions. In addition, some 25 posts in VisitBritain's overseas offices are designated as having a media, press, PR or communications role.

McMaster Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects Sir Brian McMaster's review of how the Government supports the arts to be published. [155758]

Margaret Hodge: The Secretary of State has asked Sir Brian to report by the end of 2007.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the terms of reference are for the review being carried out for his Department by Sir Brian McMaster. [156705]

Margaret Hodge: The Secretary of State has asked Sir Brian McMaster to consider three main themes in his review:

How the system of public sector support for the arts can encourage excellence, risk taking and innovation;

How artistic excellence can encourage wider and deeper engagement with the arts by audiences;

How to establish a light touch and non-bureaucratic method to judge the quality of the arts in the future.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the estimated cost of the review being carried out for his Department by Sir Brian McMaster is; on what date he expects Sir Brian to report; and what opportunities have been provided for stakeholders and others to contribute to the review. [156706]

Margaret Hodge: We expect the review to incur cash costs of approximately £50,000. In addition, numerous organisations and stakeholders are contributing their time and resources to the review in kind. The Secretary of State has asked Sir Brian to report by the end of 2007.

All of Arts Council England's regularly funded organisations have received letters inviting them to contribute to the review, as have the national and regional hub museums. There will also be a series of interviews and group meetings with stakeholders in order to inform Sir Brian's thinking ahead of the review's publication.

In addition to this, we will shortly be publishing information about the review on the departmental website, along with details of how members of the public can contribute their ideas.

National Lottery Commission: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by the National Lottery Commission. [155770]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As of 3 October 2007, the National Lottery Commission employed 41 people.

National Lottery: Costs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the annual operating costs of each of the National Lottery distributors were in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [155772]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is contained in distributor's annual reports and accounts, copies of which are laid before Parliament and available in the Library of the House.

National Lottery: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been allocated to statutory bodies from each National Lottery distributor in each year since 1994. [155769]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's National Lottery Grants Database does not record the recipient status, whether statutory body, local authority or private sector, for every grant it records. The information requested could therefore only be provided by requesting a designation for every award from each distributor, which would incur disproportionate cost

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was received by each of the National Lottery good causes in each year since 1995-96 in constant 2007-08 prices. [156710]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures requested, which are for income raised for the various good causes including investment income, are given in the following tables using 2006-07 constant prices, the latest available from the Office for National Statistics.

	1995-96	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*
Arts	399	399	445	346	313	334
Heritage	399	402	461	382	342	377
Sport	399	402	457	372	324	349
Millennium	401	407	501	481	416	404
Charitable expenditure	401	402	455	369	327	346
Health, education and environment	—	—	134	401	360	285
Total	1,999	2,011	2,454	2,351	2,082	2,095

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Arts	338	284	247	253	252	213
Heritage	366	323	265	279	278	231
Sport	346	286	245	252	251	213
Millennium	142	23	6	6	4	—
Charitable expenditure	339	277	242	246	245	—
Health, education and environment	549	569	494	507	505	—
Charities, health, education and environment	—	—	—	—	—	630
Olympics	—	—	—	—	16	116
Total	2,080	1,763	1,499	1,543	1,550	1,403

Totals may not cast arithmetically due to rounding. For 2006-07, income raised before 1 December 2006 for the charitable expenditure good cause and the health, education and environment good cause is shown under the new combined good cause. The figures for income raised for the health, education and environment good cause in 1997-98, 1998-99, 2002-03, 2005-06 and 2006-07 includes money that was transferred from that income stream to the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA).

National Lottery: NHS Trusts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was distributed to NHS trusts by each of the National Lottery distributors in each of the last five years. [155771]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the number and value of grants on the Department's Lottery Grants Database where the name of the recipient is recorded as "NHS Trust". The information is for the last five complete financial years and the values of grants are rounded to the nearest £1,000. In the case of the Big Lottery Fund, the information was supplied directly by the distributor.

£

Distributor	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Big Lottery Fund[1]	73,878,000	33,841,000	750,000	761,000	339,000
Heritage Lottery Fund	—	—	197,000	25,000	23,000
UK Sport	—	—	—	—	—
Sport England	—	—	—	—	—
Sport Northern Ireland	—	—	—	—	—
Sport Scotland	—	—	—	—	—
Sports Council Wales	—	—	—	1,000	1,000
Arts Council England	184,000	64,000	234,000	184,000	107,000
Arts Council Northern Ireland	—	—	—	—	—
Scottish Arts Council	8,000	82,000	9,000	—	—
Arts Council Wales	93,000	10,000	100,000	133,000	139,000

Distributor	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
UK Film Council	—	—	4,000	—	—
Scottish Screen	—	—	—	—	—

[1] The New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund were replaced by the Big Lottery Fund on the 1 December 2006.

The Department's Lottery grant database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

National Lottery: Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the amount of lottery funding which will be received by *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* Sport Scotland, *(c)* Sports Council Wales and *(d)* Sports Council Northern Ireland in each year from 2008 to 2013. [155680]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures based on the Department's current National Lottery income projections are given in the following table. My officials review the projections four times a year, so the figures are subject to possible future change.

Projected lottery income, including investment income but net of proposed transfers to the Olympic Lottery distribution fund

£ million (rounded to nearest £0.1 million)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Total
Sport England	121.8	101.8	99.6	100.5	127.1	550.8
Sport Scotland	15.9	13.3	13	13.1	16.6	71.9
SCW	8.8	7.4	7.2	7.3	9.2	39.9
SNI	5.1	4.3	4.2	4.2	5.3	23.1

Night Clubs: Body Searches

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it a mandatory licensing condition for nightclubs to operate a system of searching entrants for weapons. [154094]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The searching of entrants to nightclubs can help promote the licensing objectives of public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder but, as the Secretary of State's guidance to licensing authorities makes clear, such conditions should only be imposed where necessary, taking into account factors such as the location and type of venue. Where the police believe that a premises selling alcohol is associated with serious crime or serious disorder, such as the use of knives or guns, they can apply for a fast track review of the premises licence under new powers which came into force on 1 October 2007. In such cases, licensing authorities must also consider if it is appropriate to impose immediate extra conditions, such as a requirement to search for weapons, on the licence pending that review.

Olympic Games: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1387W, on the Olympic Games: finance, what the final figures signed off in UK sport's audited 2006-07 year-end accounts were for the amounts spent on the Olympic sports as part of the planned World Class Pathway funding for the Beijing Cycle, broken down by sport. [154458]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport invested a total of £72.45 million in pathway funds for Olympic and Paralympic sports during 2006-07, through its World Class Pathway Programme. Of this total, £53.4 million was invested in Olympic sports, £7.4 million in Paralympic sports, and £11.7 million in services to support the Olympic and Paralympic investment.

The total amount invested directly into Olympic National Governing Bodies and athletes for this period has been broken down by sport in the following table:

2006-07

Sport	£
Archery	740,627
Athletics	6,389,548
Badminton	1,549,194
Boxing	791,786
Canoeing	2,831,657
Cycling	6,014,638
Diving	1,112,648
Equestrian	2,812,707
Fencing	528,928
Gymnastics	1,756,099
Handball	431,000
Hockey	2,435,865
Judo	1,515,541
Modern Pentathlon	1,299,439
Rowing	7,059,681
Sailing	6,286,419
Softball	170,000
Swimming	4,845,012
Synchro Swimming	178,192
Table Tennis	583,450
Taekwondo	597,547
Target Shooting	1,000,301
Triathlon	786,827
Volleyball	536,500
Water Polo	423,283
Weightlifting	228,282
Wrestling	448,375
Grand total	53,353,546

Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many overnight visits *(a)* he and *(b)* his predecessor made to Peterborough in each year since 1997. [154327]

James Purnell: None.

Piers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of seaside piers are publicly owned; and how many have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been awarded funding from the National Lottery. [155649]

Margaret Hodge: There are currently 55 piers still standing, 16 of which are owned by local authorities (LAs).

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has received 12 applications for seaside piers, six for piers which are owned by LAs. HLF has granted funding for three of those owned by local authorities.

The breakdown of the awards for the three LA owned seaside piers is set out in the table:

Name	*Grantee*	*Number of projects*	*Value of awards (£)*
Penarth Pier	Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd./Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council	2	1,151,000
Saltburn by the Sea Pier	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	1	1,208,000
Southport Pier	Southport Pier Trust Company Ltd./Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	2	1,734,000

Primary Education: Football

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many primary schools do not have a football team competing in a schools league. [156636]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Of the 17,361 primary schools in England, the English Schools Football Association (ESFA) advise that approximately 5,361 do not compete in either county, district or national football competitions.

The 2005-06 School Sport Survey found that 99 per cent. of primary schools offered football during the last year and that 79 per cent. of primary schools have a link with a football club.

Radio

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ofcom regarding the regulation of commercial radio. [155757]

James Purnell: The regulation of radio is one of the items that I and my officials discuss in our periodic meetings with Ofcom.

Sport Action Zones

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been invested in Sport Action Zones since 2000. [155903]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Core funding for each of the 12 designated Sport Action Zones totalled £350,000 over the five years of planned investment (2000-05); meaning an overall total of £4.2 million.

A further £1.998 million Magnet funding was also awarded to the scheme. Any future investment in Sport Action Zones has been mainstreamed through Sport England's Community Investment Fund (CIF).

Sport Direct

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2145W, on Sport Direct, when the one stop shop is likely to be created; what work has already been undertaken to assess the most effective way of integrating different sources of sports participation information; how many civil servants are involved in the assessment process; how much has been allocated to establishing the one stop shop; and how much of such funding has been spent on development to date. [156266]

James Purnell: A number of options for delivering a one stop shop service for sport have been considered, and from the autumn this service will be accessible via the NHS Choices website. Officials discussed the most effective way of integrating sources of sports participation information with Sport England and the Department of Health.

Two DCMS civil servants were involved in the assessment process.

All costs of developing and establishing the new service have been met within existing budgets.

Sports: Elderly

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people over the age of 60 involved in regular sports participation. [156683]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the DCMS 2005-06 'Taking Part' survey showed that:

10.4 per cent. of people aged 60 and over engaged in at least 30 minutes of moderate level intensity sport, at least three times a week.

29.7 per cent. of people aged 60 and over had participated in an active sport at least once in the last four weeks.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the top 10 sports are in terms of active participation by the over 60s. [156684]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the DCMS 2005-06 'Taking Part' survey showed that the top 10 sports in terms of participation by people aged 60 and over are:

1. Swimming or diving (indoors)
2. Golf, pitch and putt, putting
3. Health, fitness, gym or conditioning activities

4. Swimming or diving (outdoors)
5. Cycling for health, recreation, training, competition
6. Keep fit, aerobics
7. Snooker, pool, billiards (excluding bar billiards)
8. Bowls (lawn) (outdoors)
9. Bowls (indoors)
10. Ten-pin bowling

Sports: National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications for funding from *(a)* sports and *(b)* arts lottery distributors were (i) successful and (ii) unsuccessful in each year since 1997. [152290]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures in the following tables show the number of grants awarded and are derived from the Lottery Grants Database. My Department does not hold information on the number of unsuccessful applications.

(a) Sports Distributors

Sport England

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	535
1998-99	470
1999-2000	2,650
2000-01	4,238
2001-02	4,810
2002-03	944
2003-04	722
2004-05	727
2005-06	606
2006-07	306

Sports Council Northern Ireland

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	349
1998-99	310
1999-2000	223
2000-01	212
2001-02	211
2002-03	242
2003-04	167
2004-05	338
2005-06	299
2006-07	146

Sports Council Wales

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	99
1998-99	60
1999-2000	70
2000-01	125
2001-02	167
2002-03	216
2003-04	139
2004-05	69
2005-06	1,166
2006-07	1,677

Sport Scotland

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	114
1998-99	566
1999-2000	967
2000-01	817
2001-02	962
2002-03	1,016
2003-04	591
2004-05	530
2005-06	500
2006-07	421

UK Sport

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	2
1998-99	2
1999-2000	97
2000-01	676
2001-02	1,211
2002-03	1,304
2003-04	1,013
2004-05	1,113
2005-06	526
2006-07	1,144

(b) Arts Distributors

Arts Council England

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	4,016
1998-99	806
1999-2000	1,966
2000-01	2,991
2001-02	3,743
2002-03	1,751
2003-04	3,285
2004-05	3,295
2005-06	3,305
2006-07	2,271

Arts Council Wales

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	333
1998-99	125
1999-2000	512
2000-01	467
2001-02	633
2002-03	655
2003-04	545
2004-05	580
2005-06	766
2006-07	577

Arts Council Northern Ireland

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	107
1998-99	88
1999-2000	107

Arts Council Northern Ireland

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
2000-01	69
2001-02	257
2002-03	367
2003-04	350
2004-05	433
2005-06	417
2006-07	538

Scottish Arts Council

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	242
1998-99	554
1999-2000	545
2000-01	433
2001-02	654
2002-03	1,211
2003-04	1,384
2004-05	1,350
2005-06	435
2006-07	593

UK Film Council

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	—
1998-99	—
1999-2000	23
2000-01	72
2001-02	333
2002-03	697
2003-04	991
2004-05	958
2005-06	1,138
2006-07	1,180

Scottish Screen

Financial year	*Total number of Grants*
1997-98	—
1998-99	—
1999-2000	—
2000-01	69
2001-02	92
2002-03	100
2003-04	110
2004-05	76
2005-06	97
2006-07	50

Sportsgrounds: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many competition athletics tracks there are in *(a)* Nottinghamshire and *(b)* England. [155603]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Active Places database indicates that there are 224 athletics tracks in England with six or more lanes and floodlighting. Five of these tracks are located in Nottinghamshire.

Swimming Pools

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Olympic-standard swimming pools there are in England; and where each is located. [156443]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are currently 37 Olympic-standard (50 m) swimming pools in England. The following table details where they are located:

	Indoor	*Outdoor*
North West	Manchester x 2	—
	Stockport	—
	Wigan	—
East	Norwich	Cambridge
South East	Crawley	Guildford
	High Wycombe	Chalfort, Buckinghamshire
	Aldershot	Portsmouth
	—	Oxford
	—	Hitchin, Hertfordshire
	—	Letchworth, Hertfordshire
	—	Newbury
East Midlands	Loughborough	Peterborough
South West	Bath	Penzance
	Millfield	Plymouth
	—	Torbay
	—	Cheltenham
	—	Lymington Spa
London	Crystal Palace (temporarily closed till June 2008)	Brockwell
	Ealing	Charlton
	—	Haringey
	—	Hackney
	—	Parliament Hill
	—	Tooting Bec
	—	Royal Parks (Serpentine)
West Midlands	Coventry	—
Yorkshire	Leeds	—
	Sheffield	—

A further three 50 m indoor pools are under construction and another is at the planning stage.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many diving pools there are in England; and where each is located. [156444]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to the Active Places database there are 64 diving pools in England (and one planned to open shortly in Leeds). The following table shows where the 64 are located:

	Region
Bedford	East
Cambridge	East
Colchester	East
Hatfield	East
Hemel Hempstead	East
Hertford	East
Peterborough	East
Southend-On-Sea	East
Derby	East Midlands
Hinckley	East Midlands
Lincoln	East Midlands
Nottingham	East Midlands
Rutland	East Midlands
Spalding	East Midlands
Barnet	London
Crouch End	London
Crystal Palace (temporarily closed)	London
Waltham Forest	London
Darlington	North East
Hartlepool	North East
South Shields	North East
Sunderland	North East
Whitley Bay	North East
Bury	North West
Manchester	North West
Oldham	North West
Abingdon	South East
Alton	South East
Dartford	South East
Eastbourne	South East
Gillingham	South East
Gravesend	South East
Guildford	South East
Havant	South East
Leatherhead	South East
Maidstone	South East
Oxford	South East
Reading	South East
Southampton	South East
Swanley	South East
Tunbridge Wells	South East
Worthing	South East
Barnstaple	South West
Bristol	South West
Cheltenham	South West
Plymouth	South West
Poole	South West
Redruth	South West
St. Austell	South West
Coventry	West Midlands
Hereford	West Midlands
Ludlow	West Midlands
Solihull	West Midlands
Stafford	West Midlands
Sutton Coldfield	West Midlands
Worcester	West Midlands
Barnsley	Yorkshire and the Humber
Bradford	Yorkshire and the Humber
Grimsby	Yorkshire and the Humber
Harrogate	Yorkshire and the Humber
Leeds x2	Yorkshire and the Humber
Rotherham	Yorkshire and the Humber
Sheffield	Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public swimming pools have *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in England since 1997; and how many of the pools that have opened since 1997 reopened after refurbishment or temporary closure rather than opened for the first time. [156445]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on pool closures across England was not collected centrally prior to 2004. However, the most recent information from Sport England indicates that a total of 37 pools (not sites) in local authority ownership were closed between 2004 and 2006.

The Active Places database of sports facilities across England (established in 2004) currently lists 211 pools (not sites) that have been newly built between 1997 and 2006, of which 56 were built between 2004 and 2006. In addition, the database lists a further 1,237 local authority owned pools built before 1997 but refurbished between 1997 and 2006.

Volunteers: Recruitment

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* young volunteers trained to work in schools and community clubs and *(b)* trained adult mentors were recruited (i) before and (ii) since April 2004. [156435]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 2005-06 Annual School Sport Survey indicates that 13 per cent. of pupils in years 10-13 are actively engaged in sports volunteering and leadership. This equates to 285,631 pupils. This is an increase of 4 per cent. on the numbers surveyed for the first survey in 2003-04 and an increase of 2 per cent. from last year.

This number includes participants in the Step into Sport Programme, one of the eight strands of the National School Sport Strategy. Through Step into Sport, the Government are providing a simple framework of co-ordinated opportunities at a local level in schools and local communities for young people to begin an involvement in leadership and volunteering through sport.

The Youth Sport Trust deliver the programme and advise that from its launch in 2002 until 2004 4,000 young people aged 14 to 19 registered as Community Volunteers and a further 2,000 young people volunteered to take part in the planning, organisation and delivery of sporting festivals for local primary schools Between 2004 and 2007, 29,720 young people have registered as volunteers in sport at school or communities.

As part of Step into Sport, there are now 973 Young Ambassadors aged 16 years in place, in 449 School Sport Partnerships (two in each Partnership), all helping to spread the Olympic and Paralympic message and ideals within School Sport Partnerships, as well as acting as advocates and role models to other young people. Of the two young people in each Partnership, one is also a gifted and talented athlete.

Between 2002-04 YST figures indicate that SiS developed 600 school based adult mentors and a further 1,068 from 2004-07.

Written Questions

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to answer question *(a)* 148539 on civil servants and *(b)* 148535 on advertising: gambling, tabled by the hon. Member for Bath on 4 July 2007. [156248]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Both questions were answered on 3 October.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service. [154126]

Mr. McFadden: ACAS currently employs two permanent communications professionals to carry out its media and marketing activity. Both are Government Communication Network (GCN) professionals, with the media and marketing manager operating at Senior Information Officer level and their deputy at Information Officer level. Neither is a full-time press officer, but both combine press duties as part of their overall role. This includes operating an out-of-hours service for the media.

Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2007 Directive

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many responses he has received to the consultation on the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2007 Directive; and if he will make a statement. [153779]

Mr. Thomas: The Department received 75 responses to its consultation on draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2007, which implement the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (2005/29/EC). These included consumer bodies, businesses and business organisations, trading standards departments, regulators, professional institutions and academics.

We are currently analysing the responses and the Government hope to publish their response in October, including what changes they proposes to make to the draft regulations.

East of England Development Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the East of England Development Agency. [154171]

Mr. Timms: Three.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [154161]

Mr. McFadden: All ECGD's media relations are handled by the Department's head of communications.

South West Development Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the South West Development Agency. [154420]

Mr. Timms: Three.

Accommodation Address Agencies

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what evaluation he has made of the abuse of accommodation address agencies by perpetrators of *(a)* consumer fraud and *(b)* other criminal activity relating to the responsibilities of his Department. [156592]

Mr. Thomas: There has been no such evaluation. We are discussing with a range of interested parties whether Government intervention is appropriate.

Advantage West Midlands: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by Advantage West Midlands. [154729]

Mr. Timms: Three

Bankruptcy: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people declared themselves bankrupt in Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years. [153768]

Mr. McFadden: The number of bankruptcies in Cambridgeshire classified according to postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals can be seen in the following table. The accuracy of these statistics is thus as reliable as the postcode information supplied, which is subject to elements of missing and inaccurate data.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cambridgeshire	216	294	391	526	661

Barbara Thomas Judge

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the availability of Barbara Thomas Judge to undertake her functions as Chair of the UK Atomic Energy Authority. [155375]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Lady Thomas Judge keeps BERR officials fully up to date with her non-executive, advisory and charity roles and provides a breakdown of the time involved. Ministers are briefed as appropriate and my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton) was most recently given advice in July soon after he became Secretary of State.

We continue to be fully satisfied that Lady Thomas Judge is performing the role of UKAEA chair highly effectively and with full dedication. As such the UK taxpayer is being well served and gets considerably more than the two days per week for which Lady Thomas Judge is contracted.

Bevin Boys

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many surviving Bevin Boys he estimates there to be. [156585]

Mr. Timms: Between the years 1943 and 1948 approximately 48,000 men served in the mines as ballotees, volunteers or optants under the Bevin Boys scheme. Based on the uptake for the Ministry of Defences' HM Armed Forces Veteran's Badge it is estimated that there might be in the region of 6,000 to 11,000 claims for the Bevin Boys Veteran's Badge.

British Nuclear Fuels: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by *(a)* the British Nuclear Group and *(b)* British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. [154124]

Malcolm Wicks: Following the strategy announced by the Secretary of State for the British Nuclear Group businesses in October 2006, all corporate activities previously undertaken by British Nuclear Group have been transferred to its parent company BNFL. BNFL has a small corporate centre to oversee its businesses and manage the ongoing restructuring, which includes one press officer. The subsidiary businesses of BNFL, namely Sellafield, Nexia Solutions and Project Services, employ 7.5 full-time equivalent press officers.

Broadband

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely costs of implementing a universal service obligation on communications providers to ensure all customer requests for broadband connections are met. [156451]

Mr. Timms: No such assessment has been made.

The EU Commission is reviewing the scope and future of universal service in 2008 and we expect to consult widely with all stakeholders in preparing the UK's response.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Ofcom and the communications industry about a universal service obligation which would include broadband as well as narrowband services. [156452]

Mr. Timms: No such discussions have taken place. Two UK telephone operators have a universal service obligation (USO); BT and Kingston Communications.

The EU Commission is reviewing the scope and future of universal service in 2008 and we plan to consult widely, including with Ofcom and the communications industry in preparing the UK's response.

Broadcasting

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the TG4 Group proposals for a pan-European sub band of spectrum for mobile use; and if he will make a statement. [154411]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Certification Office for Trade Union and Employers' Associations: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the Certification Office for Trade Union and Employers' Associations. [154731]

Mr. McFadden: The Certification Office for Trade Union and Employers' Associations employs no press officers.

Companies House: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by Companies House. [154732]

Mr. Timms: Companies House has two press officers, neither of whom work exclusively on press issues.

Companies: Radioactive Materials

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has given advice to businesses on the storage of commercial radiological materials. [155405]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not give advice to businesses on the storage of radiological materials.

Regulatory guidance is provided on the respective websites of the Environment Agency (EA) (www.enviromnent-agency.gov.uk) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) (www.hse.gov.uk). Guidance can also be found on the environment agencies website for small businesses at www.netregs.gov.uk giving free environmental guidance to small businesses in the UK to help them comply with environmental legislation.

HSE has a statutory responsibility to provide advice and this would include advice on the storage of radiological materials. Businesses can therefore contact HSE for guidance and they can also contact the Environment Agency.

Competition Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the Competition Commission. [154633]

Mr. Thomas: There are two press officers in the Competition Commission.

Computers: Waste Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the guidance issued to Government Departments on the steps to be taken to dispose of redundant information technology equipment. [154030]

Malcolm Wicks: The guidance on the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations which was published in February 2007, contained advice for both business and domestic users on the disposal of redundant equipment. Further advice specifically for Government procurement officers is to issue shortly.

Copyright: Consumers

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the level of protection afforded to consumers from copycat branding; and if he will make a statement; [153777]

(2) if he will introduce legislation to enable companies to address grievances relating to copycat branding through the civil courts; and if he will make a statement. [153778]

Mr. Thomas: The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, which implement the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD), include provisions prohibiting copycat branding which is likely to confuse consumers into taking a transactional decision they would not have taken otherwise.

In response to the December 2005 consultation on implementation of the UCPD the Government said that they did not propose to allow businesses to take enforcement action for breaches of the directive. This is because it believed that existing arrangements are adequate for dealing with cases that result in real consumer detriment.

A number of responses to the May 2007 consultation on the draft regulations asked the Government to reconsider their decision not to allow companies to take civil (injunctive) action to enforce the provisions copycat branding. We are carefully considering all the responses received before coming to a final decision on how the regulations should best be enforced in the interests of consumers.

Departments: Departmental Coordination

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by his Department to liaise with the Minister for Women. [155243]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The Prime Minister announced the new Cabinet Committee structure on 23 July 2007. The Domestic Affairs (Communities and Equalities) Committee, chaired by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, was one of the new Committees. The terms of reference for DA(CE) are:

> "To consider policy relating to community issues, including community cohesion, equalities, wellbeing and public health; and report as necessary to the Committee on Domestic Affairs and the Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development".

This Department has not set up any committees or permanent groups involving senior civil servants specifically to liaise with the Ministers for Women.

As with all cross cutting issues, Ministers and officials in this Department liaise with the Minister for Women as necessary.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153596]

Mr. Thomas: The proportion of people employed by my department and its agencies who have declared a disability or long term health condition as at 1 September 2007 is shown as follows.

	Staff in post	*Staff who have declared a disability/long-term health condition*	*Percentage of staff with a declared disability/long-term health condition*
BERR Core	2,464	197	8
BERR including UK Trade and Investment and Office of Manpower Economics	2,958	237	8

	Staff in post	Staff who have declared a disability/long-term health condition	Percentage of staff with a declared disability/long-term health condition
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	54	0	0
The Insolvency Service	2,433	327	13
UK Intellectual Property Office	998	19	2

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153124]

Mr. Thomas: Centrally held records do not distinguish between these events and other training and development activities and the information is therefore not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153125]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has only been in existence since 28 June 2007. However, we have aggregated the training spend of the staff who now form BERR and for the 12-month period July 2006 to June 2007 it was £2,782,090.

Training budgets are devolved so it is not possible to calculate how much of this spend was on communications training.

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many television signal reception installers had signed up to the registered digital installer scheme at 30 June 2007, broken down by ITV television region. [154084]

Mr. Timms: Information recorded at 30 June 2007 by the Registered Digital Installer-Licensing Body is set out in the following table.

ITV region	Enrolled/ registered for training	Registered digital installers (RDIs)	Associate RDIs
Anglia	137	0	4
Border	57	0	4
Central	269	13	20
Grampian	20	1	1
Granada	215	0	22
HTV Wales	97	15	10
HTV West	42	0	4
London	354	1	9
Meridian	166	0	15
Scottish TV	88	0	0
Tyne Tees	37	0	8
Ulster	13	0	0
West Country	56	0	5
Yorkshire	414	36	6
Total	1,965	66	108

The number of accredited installers is now increasing week-by-week and, as at 23 July 2007, there were 82 RDIs.

The associate RDI scheme, which is mentioned in the table, has been launched by the RDI Licensing Body as a temporary measure given the need for consumers to be able to identify honest and reliable aerial installers in the interim before significant numbers of installers gain full RDI qualification. Associate RDIs have met the following criteria:

have enrolled or given a commitment to enrol for relevant NVQ training;

have undertaken and met the requirements of a suitable Working at Heights course;

have a minimum of one years relevant work experience within the aerial industry;

provided evidence of a satisfactory Basic Criminal Records Disclosure and Public Liability insurance.

Electrical Control Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to raise awareness among householders about the safe disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment. [154343]

Malcolm Wicks: Householders will get information about the disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment in a variety of ways: through the media; from retailers, when they buy a new electrical item; and via their local council. Surrey county council for example has already updated its website to provide residents with information about waste electrical equipment.

Electricity Generation: Wind Power

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the stability risk threshold for the national grid in terms of *(a)* total measured output and *(b)* percentage of total electricity produced from wind turbines; and if he will make a statement. [155506]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Advice from National Grid, the GB System Operator, is that the percentage of total electrical energy that can be produced by wind generation is

likely to be limited by economic rather than technical considerations and that any limit will lie beyond the Government's current renewable targets or aspirations. This view is supported by evidence from abroad, with a number of countries having achieved, in percentage terms, the wind generation output that the UK currently aspires to.

Energy: Research

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much of the £500 million committed to capital grants and research and development in the field of emerging low carbon technologies has been spent, broken down by technology. [155489]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Spend so far (to end March 2007) under the programmes listed as follows, which were introduced at different points over the period, totals £208.13 million. All of these programmes except the Major PV Demonstration Programme and Clear Skies are projected to continue to spend during the CSR period and in some cases well beyond.

Spend on the main programme activities is set out below. It has not been possible to provide a breakdown of the Clear Skies and R and D programme spend by technology.

Programme/Technology	*Spend to end 2006-07 (£ million)*
Off-shore Wind capital grant programme	76.35
Bioenergy capital grant programme	26.02
Major PV Demonstration Programme	30.1
Clear Skies (Micro wind, Biomass, Heat Pumps, Micro hydro, Solar Thermal Hot Water)	12.1
Marine Renewable Deployment Fund	1.62
Low Carbon Buildings Program Phase 1 (LCB)	4.0
Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 (LCB)	0.13
Hydrogen and Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Demonstration Programme (HFCAT)	0.11
New and Renewables R and D programme/Technology Programme	57.7
Total	208.13

Equal Opportunities Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, including its Northern Ireland office. [154149]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

There are four press officers employed by the Equal Opportunities Commission for England, Scotland and Wales. The Equal Opportunities Commission does not have an office in Northern Ireland.

EU Internal Trade: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many jobs in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* York he estimates are dependent on exports to or investment from other EU states. [152208]

Mr. Timms: No such estimates have been made.

In the year ended March 2007 HM Revenue and Customs recorded exports from Yorkshire and the Humber to the EU totalling £7.2 billion out of a total export figure of £12.3 billion for the region. Exports to the EU therefore accounted for 59 per cent. of the total. This excludes exports of services and lower value exports which are not recorded by HM Revenue and Customs.

On foreign direct investment, there are 595 EU owned companies in Yorkshire and the Humber of which 16 are based in York. Over 1,700 new or safeguarded jobs were generated by new companies investing in Yorkshire and the Humber during 2006-07. Of this figure, investment by companies based in other EU states contributed 202 jobs. However, none of the EU investments were in York.

Flexible Working

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to introduce a duty on employers to provide flexible working arrangements. [154311]

Mr. McFadden: The Government encourage all types of flexible working across the workforce by providing detailed guidance, promoting the benefits and encouraging the sharing of best practice. We introduced the right to request flexible working, for parents of young and disabled children in April 2003. In April 2007 we extended this right to carers of adults. Over six million employees now have the statutory right to ask to work flexibly.

There is no evidence to suggest that we should place a duty on employers to provide flexible working arrangements. The right to request flexible working has been a huge success with four out of five requests accepted by employers. 87 per cent. of all employees are satisfied with their current working patterns and 90 per cent. of employees said that at least one flexible working arrangement was available to them if they needed it. We will continue to monitor the impact of the flexible working law.

Gas Distribution Price Control Review

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what information Ofgem took into account on the customer satisfaction performance indicators for the gas distribution networks in compiling its initial proposals for the Gas Distribution Price Control Review for 2008 to 2013; what steps Ofgem took to assess the implications of its proposals for the service provided to customers prior to their publication; and what factors

Ofgem took into account in assessing the implications of its proposals for customer satisfaction; [154289]

(2) what factors Ofgem took into account in assessing the safety implications of its proposals prior to developing its initial proposals for the Gas Distribution Price Control Review for 2008 to 2013; [154296]

(3) what factors Ofgem took into account on the safety performance indicators for the gas distribution networks in compiling its initial proposals for the Gas Distribution Price Control Review for 2008 to 2013. [154294]

Mr. Timms: The Gas Distribution Price Control Review is a matter for Ofgem. I am therefore asking the chief executive of the Gas and Electricity Markets, which heads Ofgem, to write directly to the hon. Member.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what Ofgem considers to be the implications to the consumer of the gas distribution networks being unable to replace their ageing and highly-skilled workforces by recruiting and training a sufficient number of new employees to carry out vital emergency, repair and maintenance activities; [154293]

(2) what factors Ofgem took into account in compiling its initial proposals for the Gas Distribution Price Control Review for 2008 to 2013, with particular reference to the allowances granted to allow gas distribution network operators to recruit new employees to carry out emergency, repair and maintenance activities; [154292]

(3) how many gas distribution networks made representations to Ofgem prior to it publishing Document 125/07, initial proposals for the Gas Distribution Price Control Review for 2008 to 2013; and how many sought an additional allowance to allow them to recruit new employees to carry out emergency, repair and maintenance activities; [154291]

(4) what additional allowance Ofgem made in its initial proposals for the Gas Distribution Price Control Review for 2008 to 2013 to allow the gas distribution network operators to recruit and train new employees to carry out emergency, repair and maintenance activities; [154290]

(5) what steps Ofgem took to assess the safety implications of its proposals for *(a)* the consumer and *(b)* employees of the gas distribution networks prior to publishing Document 125/07, containing its initial proposals for the Gas Distribution Price Control Review for 2008 to 2013. [154295]

Mr. Timms: The Gas Distribution Price Control Review is a matter for Ofgem. I am therefore asking the Chief Executive of the Gas and Electricity Markets, which heads Ofgem, to write directly to the hon. Member.

Loans: Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to prevent the exploitation of vulnerable people by home credit companies. [154386]

Mr. Thomas: The Competition Commission has been investigating the home credit sector and is now implementing remedies intended to make the market more competitive so that customers of home credit companies will get a better deal.

More generally, the Government have recently strengthened consumer credit legislation. A prime purpose of these reforms is to protect consumers from unfair treatment by lenders, whether in the home credit sector or by other credit providers.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Information Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [154667]

Mr. McFadden: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) does not employ a press officer as such, but the NDA's head of communications and three communications managers cover a range of duties which by their nature include press relations.

Ofcom: Information Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by Ofcom. [154665]

Mr. Timms: I am informed by the chief executive of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) that there are six members of staff in the regulator's media office, one of whom is part-time.

Office of Fair Trading: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the Office of Fair Trading. [154142]

Mr. Thomas: The OFT employs six press officers, one of whom is responsible for media handling for Consumer Direct—the Government's national consumer advice line.

Oil: Prices

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average price of oil was in each of the last 15 years; and what assessment he has made of the effect of trends in oil prices on business. [154093]

Mr. McFadden: Oil is a globally traded commodity and the rise in oil prices over recent years has affected all countries, not just the UK. Moreover, while the Government recognise that in recent years higher and more volatile oil prices have created problems for UK businesses, by increasing production costs and adding pressure to profit margins, several factors have helped limit the impact. Firstly, in real terms (current prices), oil prices have remained below the peak levels reached in the late-1970s and early 1980s. Secondly, the rise in oil prices has in part been driven by strong global

economic growth. Thirdly, UK businesses typically now have a lower intensity to use oil, given improvements in energy efficiency and the shift in the structure of the economy towards services. Finally, developments in financial markets have allowed businesses to hedge against the risks associated with fluctuations in oil prices more effectively.

The 2007 Energy White Paper (http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/) sets out the measures the Government are putting in place to help improve the functioning of the global oil market, and to ensure that the UK's domestic market framework and supply infrastructure continue to deliver reliable supplies of oil-based energy at competitive prices, as they have done over the last 15 years.

Average price of oil acquired by UK refineries in nominal ($/bbl and £/bbl) and real (£/bbl) prices

	Nominal prices $/bbl	*Nominal prices £/bbl*	*Real 2006 prices £/bbl*
1992	19.5	10.9	15.4
1993	17.1	11.4	15.6
1994	15.8	10.3	14.1
1995	17.3	11.0	14.5
1996	21.0	13.4	17.2
1997	19.3	11.8	14.7
1998	12.8	7.7	9.3
1999	17.9	11.0	13.1
2000	28.6	18.9	22.1
2001	24.5	17.0	19.4
2002	24.7	16.4	18.2
2003	29.1	17.8	19.1
2004	37.8	20.6	21.6
2005	53.8	29.7	30.4
2006	64.7	35.2	35.2
YTD 2007	65.5	33.0	—

Notes:
1. Prices for supplies received by refineries in the UK from both indigenous and imported sources.
2. Real 2006 prices calculated using the GDP deflator.

Source:
BERR

Oil: Reserves

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, on oil: reserves, from which countries he expects the UK to derive its future requirements for oil in the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years. [154350]

Mr. McFadden: Oil is traded in a global market where prices and availability are determined by global supply and demand conditions.

As domestic oil production declines, the UK will continue to rely on the global oil market to source its supplies, allowing companies to have access to a diverse range of suppliers. Commercial reasons, for example geographical proximity, mean that in addition to Norway, Russia and the Middle East, increasing supplies are also likely to be sourced, via the market, from producers in the Caspian region and Africa over the next 15 years.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, on oil: reserves, what estimate he has made of the duration of future *(a)* oil and *(b)* natural gas supply from all known sources from UK-based extractive sources. [154351]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not estimate the duration of remaining discovered recoverable reserves of oil or gas. Production from the UK Continental Shelf is expected to continue for many years, though at a declining rate.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, on oil: reserves, if he will assess the merits of reviewing the analysis of those who promote a peak oil perspective of future oil supply. [154352]

Mr. McFadden: The Department will continue to keep abreast of, and to take into account, developing views and analysis surrounding future trends in the oil market, including in relation to future oil supplies.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, on oil: reserves, what assessment he has made of the implications of recent increases in crude oil prices for his Department's calculations of oil supply. [154353]

Mr. McFadden: Global investment in oil production capacity has increased in recent years, resulting in an expected increase in future global oil production capacity. Higher oil prices—by increasing the finances available to oil companies and by improving the economics of higher cost projects—are one of the contributory factors but it is not possible to quantify the specific contribution. A range of other factors also interact to determine the level of investment and therefore future global oil supply, including technological developments, governments' policies, supply chain costs, and other energy prices.

Domestically, the Department publishes projections of UK oil production every six months or so (most recently at http://www.og.dti.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/chapters/Section4_17.htm) and these reflect operators' views of future oil prices. The projections change for a number of reasons and, once again, it is not possible to attribute a specific contribution from recent increases in crude oil prices.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, on oil: reserves, what challenges he has assessed as representing the greatest impediment to affordable oil supply to the UK in the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years. [154354]

Mr. McFadden: The 2007 Energy White Paper:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/

sets out the main international (chapter 1) and domestic (chapter 4) challenges facing the UK in ensuring its supplies of oil remain affordable and reliable.

Internationally, the main challenge lies in recovering and bringing oil reserves to market. A number of factors have the potential to defer or restrict the level of future oil sector investment, undermining the affordability and reliability of supplies:

resource nationalism;

inadequate oil market information;

regulatory uncertainty;

the threat of terrorism, accident and natural disaster; and

labour, equipment and service sector constraints.

The Government are promoting international efforts to improve the functioning and transparency of the global oil market, and to tackle these barriers to investment.

Domestically, the main challenge is ensuring that UK oil infrastructure is able to cope with declining UK production and evolving trends in demand. Given the high volumes of oil the UK already imports, existing infrastructure is well placed to cope with higher volumes. However, UK refineries will need to respond to the challenges of:

rising demand for diesel and jet fuel and falling demand for petrol;

declining availability of North sea crude oils; and

evolving qualities of oil products, including the introduction of biofuels.

The Government will continue to work closely with UK refiners as they address these challenges. The Government have also established with industry an aviation fuel task group to analyse what supply infrastructure may be needed to meet future jet fuel demand at UK airports up to 2030. Finally, we have taken steps to ensure our oil emergency stocking system is better placed to deal with the increasing levels of oil import dependence we face.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, on oil: reserves, how many years of oil supply the Government have estimated are available to *(a)* the international community and *(b)* the UK in the forthcoming (i) five, (ii) 10, (iii) 15 and (iv) more than 15 years at present rates of usage. [154355]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's view is that global oil resources are sufficient to sustain not only current rates of global usage but also the expected increase in usage for the foreseeable future. Supplies will be made available to the international community and the UK through the market mechanism, with the exact level depending on the complex interaction of a number of factors, including technological developments, economic growth, the policies of Governments, and relative energy prices.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, on oil: reserves, what assessment he has made of the affordability of oil supplies to the UK in the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years. [154356]

Mr. McFadden: Global oil market tightness is expected to ease slightly over the next few years as new production and refining capacity is brought on-stream. However, given the complexity of contributory factors, the implications for international oil prices are uncertain. However, most analysts do not expect oil prices to make a sustained return to the average levels seen during the 1990s (around US$25 per barrel in today's prices), reflecting an expected increase in the market share of a relatively small number of producers, strong demand growth from developing countries, investment constraints, and a rise in marginal production costs outside OPEC.

One Northeast Communications Team: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the One Northeast communications team. [154148]

Mr. Timms: Five.

Post Offices

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether those served by outreach post offices and non-commercial post office outlets will count as part of the 90 per cent. of the population to be within one mile of their nearest post office outlet in the access criteria set by Post Office Ltd. [153868]

Mr. McFadden: In measuring compliance with the access criterion that 90 per cent. of the UK population be within one mile of their nearest post office outlet, proximity to all categories of post office including outreach sites will be taken into account.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what minimum level of service provision will be required of post office outlets for the 90 per cent. of the population who are to be within one mile of their nearest outlet. [153896]

Mr. McFadden: Decisions about local service offerings and opening hours at post offices are a matter for Post Office Ltd. and local sub-postmasters, reflecting the needs and demand in local communities. It is not appropriate to seek to set national standards for matters which are best considered at local level.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether Post Office Ltd is considering the use of church premises for new post offices to replace some of the post offices that are to be closed in rural communities. [153931]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd will consider any premises which are suitably located and accessible as prospective sites in areas where new or outreach post offices are to be established.

Post Offices: Closures

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will inform hon. Members, local residents and local authorities contemporaneously of consultations on post office closure plans; and if he will make a statement. [153780]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd will inform Members of Parliament of its area network change proposals in the week before the start of local consultation and local authorities will be invited to engage with the company on its proposals before local consultation commences.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any local authority or hon. Member has been formally contacted on the consultation on post office closure plans; and if he will make a statement. [153781]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd wrote to all Members of Parliament and to local authorities in July explaining the process they will be following in implementing the network change programme and giving the expected timetable for considering the area plan in each constituency or local authority area.

Post Offices: Disadvantaged

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with (i) RNIB, (ii) RNID, (iii) Age Concern and (iv) Help the Aged on the implications of the transfer of Crown post office services to WH Smith branches for people with disabilities. [154534]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has held no such discussions. Under the Code of Practice agreed with Postwatch, Post Office Ltd. consults with a range of local representatives on the customer service implications of transferring the management of a specific Crown office to a franchise partner. In addition, Postwatch has a statutory duty to protect, promote and develop the interests of all customers of postal services in the UK and a special duty to represent vulnerable groups including the elderly and disabled. Postwatch therefore meets regularly with groups such as Help the Aged, RNIB, Age Concern etc. to understand the concerns affecting the network and report these to Post Office Ltd.

The Post Office Ltd. franchise agreement establishes a contractual obligation for WH Smith to comply with the requirements of Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and appropriate health and safety legislation.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department plans to have with the Post Office Ltd. and WH Smith on changes to chip and pin services in WH Smith branches to meet the needs of blind and visually impaired customers. [154535]

Mr. McFadden: Post office branches located within WH Smith will have the same pin pads as those found in all post office branches across the UK. To assist blind and visually impaired customers, these pin pads have a raised transparent dot on the 5 key, a plastic guard covering the function keys at the top of the pad and raised symbols alongside the clear, enter and cancel keys.

Post Office Ltd. have worked with the RNIB to produce a leaflet entitled "How to use the PIN Pad at a Post Office branch" which is available from RNIB, or from the Post Office on 0845 722 3344. The Post Office card account was one of the first cards in the UK to feature an RNIB recommended cut away indent on its trailing edge to help blind users orient the card. It also has a black arrow to help guide insertion, chosen as "easiest to see" by a group of visually impaired people.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the agreement between Post Office Ltd. and WH Smith involves WH Smith assuming a responsibility to publish a disability equality scheme and carry out a disability equality impact assessment. [154536]

Mr. McFadden: For the purpose of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, Post Office Ltd. is not considered to be a public authority, does not have specific obligations under the Disability Equality duty and is not required to publish a disability equality scheme.

Disability access is a priority for Post Office Ltd., and they are working with WH Smith to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to ensure reasonable adjustments are made and that the Disability Discrimination Act is complied with. To meet the requirements of the Act, WH Smith carried out audits at all their sites to asses their accessibility for disabled customers and employees and have spent around £1.5 million on improving access to meet the regulations. In addition Post Office Ltd. and WH Smith are signed up to the website www.directenquiries.com--a register of the access available in all their stores. Customers are encouraged to give feedback on the standards of service and access in WH Smith stores. This feedback will be monitored to ensure that appropriate reasonable adjustments are put in place to ensure disabled access to post office services.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to ensure that alternative locations for post offices that Royal Mail propose for closure will not result in a deterioration in standards of access for people with disabilities. [155605]

Mr. Timms: Disability access to Crown post offices is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. acting in compliance with the requirements of the disability discrimination legislation.

Post Offices: Dorset

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the planned location of new outreach post offices within West Dorset constituency. [153867]

Mr. McFadden: No proposals or decisions have yet been made on any new outreach post office locations in West Dorset. Post Office Ltd is now progressively developing proposals for network change in area plans based on groupings of parliamentary constituencies. These will then be subject to local public consultation after input from sub-postmasters, Postwatch and local authorities.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what

proportion of post offices planned for closure within West Dorset constituency are in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas. [153870]

Mr. McFadden: No proposals or decisions have yet been made on post office closures in West Dorset. Post Office Ltd. is now progressively developing proposals for network change in area plans based on groupings of parliamentary constituencies. These will then be subject to local public consultation after input from sub-postmasters, Postwatch and local authorities.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timescale is for planned post office closures within West Dorset constituency in the period up to the end of 2009. [153871]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. wrote to all Members of Parliament in July explaining the process they will be following in implementing the network change programme and giving the expected timetable for considering the area plan in their constituency. I understand from the company that it expects to engage with sub-postmasters in the process of developing specific proposals for West Dorset in April 2008.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many outreach post offices will open in West Dorset constituency during the planned post office closure programme. [153872]

Mr. McFadden: No proposals or decisions have yet been made on how many outreach post office locations may be established in West Dorset. Post Office Ltd. is now progressively developing proposals for network change in area plans based on groupings of parliamentary constituencies. These will then be subject to local public consultation after input from sub-postmasters, Postwatch and local authorities.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices are planned for closure within West Dorset constituency. [153895]

Mr. McFadden: No proposals or decisions have yet been made on post office closures in West Dorset. Post Office Ltd is now progressively developing proposals for network change in area plans based on groupings of parliamentary constituencies. These will then be subject to local public consultation after input from sub-postmasters, Postwatch and local authorities.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* opening times and *(b)* services of the new outreach post offices will be, with particular reference to the post offices to be located in the West Dorset parliamentary constituency. [153932]

Mr. McFadden: Decisions about local service offerings and opening hours at outreach post offices are a matter for Post Office Ltd and local sub-postmasters, reflecting the needs and demand in local communities both in West Dorset and across the country. It is not appropriate to seek to set national standards for matters which are best considered at local level.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timescale is for the opening of new outreach post offices within the West Dorset parliamentary constituency; and if he will make a statement. [153933]

Mr. McFadden: The opening of any new outreach post offices in West Dorset will be integrated with the implementation of the wider network change programme for the area. I understand that under Post Office Ltd's planned timetable this would be in autumn 2008.

Post Offices: Tyne and Wear

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the future of the post office network in Houghton and Washington East constituency. [154306]

Mr. McFadden: No proposals or decisions have yet been made on individual post offices in Houghton and Washington East. Post Office Ltd is now progressively developing proposals for network change in area plans based on groupings of parliamentary constituencies. These will then be subject to local public consultation after input from sub-postmasters, Postwatch and local authorities. Post Office Ltd wrote to all Members of Parliament in July explaining the process they will be following in implementing the network change programme and giving the expected timetable for considering the area plan in the constituency.

Postal Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether Post Office Ltd. has negotiated agreements with suppliers of goods or services which do not allow all branches to sell those products. [155444]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The negotiation of agreements with suppliers of goods and services is a matter for Post Office Ltd. and the suppliers, who will seek to determine the most effective way of delivering those products and services. Post Office Ltd. provide more than 170 different products and services and the vast majority are available across the national network of post office branches and many services are also now available through the internet or to order over the phone.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Post Office expects to publish information relating to the intention of sub-postmasters to leave the network during the local area plan consultation. [155445]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Post Office network transformation programme is required to meet the Government's access criteria and ensure a sustainable national network for the future.

The programme will also consider the availability of public transport, alternative access to key services, local geography, local demographics and the impact on local economies. Closure decisions will not be determined by sub-postmasters' preferences though there will be cases where there is a strategic fit between a closure proposal and the sub-postmaster's wish to leave the network. As such, this will not form part of the information provided during the local area plan consultation. Information on branches proposed for closure will be provided by Post Office Ltd and this will be displayed on posters in branches and also available on the Post Office Ltd website.

Postal Services: Rural Areas

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact on the rural post office network of the decision to share the Network Subsidy Scheme with the urban post office network. [155443]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The proposed Network Subsidy Payments will be sufficient to underpin the whole of the non-commercial network without adverse impact on the support available for the rural part of the network. In particular, Post Office Ltd. will be making further significant savings through reductions in central costs and overheads, combined with more cost effective delivery of services and the strategically planned closure of up to 2,500 offices.

Postcomm: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by Postcomm. [154730]

Mr. McFadden: I understand that Postcomm has one full-time press officer and one part-time media adviser who deals with the website.

Radioactive Materials: Waste Disposal

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how he plans to recover from the private sector the full costs of managing any new nuclear waste resulting from the operation of any new nuclear power stations. [153957]

Malcolm Wicks: If, as a result of the current consultation, the Government decide that nuclear should be one of the low carbon options available to investors, they will put in place a robust financing framework through statute to ensure owners or operators of new nuclear power stations set aside funds in a secure way to cover their full decommissioning costs and their full share of waste management costs.

Railways: Tees Valley

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on economic growth of an improved modernised rail network that serves Tees Valley from Darlington. [153375]

Mr. Timms: We understand that Network Rail is discussing a number of possible improvements to the rail network in Tees Valley. It will be for scheme promoters to develop business cases with any assessments of economic impact that may be nec[illegible]ry.

Regional Development Agencies National Secretariat: Information Officers

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the Regional Development Agencies National Secretariat. [154466]

Mr. Timms: The RDA National Secretariat does not employ a full-time press officer. The Senior Communications Officer is responsible for press and media handling, which takes up around one third of that person's time.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the UK's energy supply he expects to come from renewable sources by 2020. [155416]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Projections indicate that by 2020, on the basis of existing policies, renewables would contribute around 5 per cent. of the UK's energy consumption. (The proportion of electricity generated renewably would be much greater.)

The European Council agreed in March 2007 to a target for 20 per cent. of the EU's primary energy consumption to come from renewable sources by 2020. The Commission has been asked to bring forward detailed proposals—including for each member state's contribution to this target—by the end of this year. The proposal will then need to be agreed by member states and the European Parliament. After a decision has been reached, we will bring forward the appropriate measures to make our contribution.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from non-governmental organisations on changes to the Merton rule; what discussions he held with ministerial colleagues ahead of the announcement of those changes; and what impact he expects the changes to have on the Government's microgeneration strategy. [155446]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* We are aware of the concerns that have been raised around proposed changes to the planning system. We are working closely with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government developing policy in this area, to ensure that issues related to microgeneration are considered. No announcements have yet been made.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the obstacles to fulfilling targets for the proportion of energy to be produced from renewable sources. [155499]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Energy White Paper identified the need both to create the right financial framework, and to lower practical barriers relating to planning and grid connection, in the light of our target of 10 per cent. electricity from renewables by 2010 and aspiration to double this by 2020. It also outlined proposals to band the Renewables Obligation, reform the planning regime and improve renewables grid connection in order to address these barriers. In the context of renewable energy use in transport, the White Paper referred to issues of sustainability, mechanical impact and costs.

The 2007 spring European Council agreed an overall target for 20 per cent. of the EU's energy to be from renewables by 2020. Decisions have not yet been taken on individual member states' contribution to the target, but we are already giving initial consideration to potential obstacles to further renewable deployment—such as cost, technical feasibility, planning constraints, grid infrastructure, sustainability, and impact on wider energy policy goals—and how these might be overcome. We will be consulting on these issues in more detail once the European Commission has issued proposals on how the EU 20 per cent. renewable energy target should be implemented.

Royal Mail: Cars

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many private cars or other non-liveried or dedicated vehicles are used by the Royal Mail in the dispatch of mail. [154194]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. Adam Crozier the Chief Executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the level of usage of private cars or other non-liveried or dedicated vehicles by the Royal Mail to relay mailbags to postmen and women in the course of their rounds; and what guidance applies to the Royal Mail in terms of the security of such vehicles. [154195]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. Adam Crozier the Chief Executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Solicitors: Misconduct

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he intends to send an observer from his Department to the disciplinary tribunal misconduct hearings against *(a)* Wake Smith and Beresfords and *(b)* Raleys solicitors. [156576]

Mr. Timms: No. The Department is not aware of the dates of these hearings. We shall, though, monitor the outcomes.

South East England Development Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the South East England Development Agency. [154121]

Mr. Timms: Five.

Sustainable Development: Northstowe

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role his Department will play in ensuring the incorporation of sustainable energy and heat distribution in the development of the eco-town at Northstowe; and what plans he has to establish monitoring arrangements to assist other eco-towns to learn from the Northstowe experience. [152273]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Northstowe predates the eco-towns programme and its planning is already progressing, but we see it as a green exemplar and it will be an advanced prototype for eco-towns. The Northstowe Masterplan is currently being reviewed ahead of submitting the planning application shortly, and the review includes consideration of sustainable energy and high energy efficiency.

In the Eco-towns Prospectus, published on 23 July which mentions the development of the eco-town at Northstowe, we have set out the outcomes we expect to see from eco-towns. These include incorporating renewable energy systems, not just for homes, but schools, shops, offices and community facilities. We have also asked the Town and Country Planning Association to undertake a study into the practical application of the key sustainability and development criteria for eco-towns, which will draw on case studies, such as Northstowe, and this will help us to learn from the experience of others and so inform the development of eco-towns.

Television

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what percentage of new television sets sold in the UK have a screen blanking feature; [153782]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that all new television sets have a screen blanking feature. [153783]

Mr. Timms: The Government have no information on the percentage of television sets with a screen blanking feature and no plan to require television sets sold in the UK to include such a feature.

Televisions have been identified as a priority for European action under the Energy Using Products Framework Directive (EuP) which provides a forum for considering options and priorities for establishing energy efficiency standards for energy using products. The Commission expects to bring forward proposals later this year.

The Government are already working with business to promote and improve energy efficiency in televisions,

recognising the need to respond to consumer demands in the global market, and to improve information for consumers to help them identify energy efficient products.

Trading Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what rights of access trading standards officers have to *(a)* planning, *(b)* building control and *(c)* council tax data held by the departments of local authorities. [153517]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The rights of trading standards officers to have access to personal data from local authority planning, building and council tax databases are determined by section 29 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Section 29 of the Data Protection Act provides that disclosure of personal data may take place where such disclosure is for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime, or apprehending or prosecuting offenders. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act provides that any person who would not otherwise have the power to disclose information to a police authority or a local authority has power to do so where the disclosure is necessary or expedient for the purposes of any provision of that Act.

UK Atomic Energy Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by the *(a)* UK Atomic Energy Authority, *(b)* North West Regional Development Agency, *(c)* Ofgem and *(d)* Small Business Service. [154481]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Atomic Energy Authority employ 4.5 press officers; North West Regional Development Agency five press officers; Ofgem four, and the Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Department Communications Directorate provides support for its Enterprise Directorate (previously the Small Business Service). It is not possible to give a specific figure for the Enterprise Directorate since it is an integral part of the Department and Communications Directorate allocates resource based on level of demand.

VAT: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many new VAT registrations there were in the city of Peterborough in each year since 1997; [154689]

(2) how many VAT registered businesses there were in the city of Peterborough in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [154690]

Mr. Timms: The number of new VAT registrations and VAT registered businesses in the Peterborough unitary authority are shown in the following table for 1997 to 2005. Data for registrations and de-registrations in 2006 will be published autumn 2007.

Number of VAT registrations and start of year stock, Peterborough UA, 1997 to 2005

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Registrations	485	435	435	405	430	485	525	430	535	–
Start of year stock	3,580	3,740	3,815	3,945	3,980	4,070	4,155	4,255	4,305	4,475

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2005. Available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

Although the number of new registrations has fluctuated over the period, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Peterborough unitary authority has increased from 3,580 in 1997 to 4,475 at the start of 2006, an increase of 895 (25 per cent.).

VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the level of start-up activity at the unitary authority level.

However, VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (41 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Yorkshire Forward: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by Yorkshire Forward. [154158]

Mr. Timms: Four.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what role the *(a)* academy sponsor and *(b)* local authority plays in deciding whether an academy should be a new-build or refurbishment project. [154104]

Jim Knight: We expect that most academy projects will be a mix of new build and refurbishment unless it is agreed, by the local authority and Partnerships for Schools (PfS), that none of the school buildings is capable of supporting the delivery of the sponsor's educational vision.

In order to determine the level of refurbishment or new build, surveys are carried out in the early stages of an academy project. In the case of projects to be delivered via the National Framework, PfS will take the lead role in carrying out these surveys with each academy being inspected and re-developed based on its individual needs. Where academies are delivered as part

of BSF we would expect that LA to carry out these surveys as part of its review of school provision.

The sponsor will be consulted on the outcome of such surveys but the final decision will rest with DCSF as part of their project approval processes.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on establishing academies in areas where local authorities object; and if he will make a statement. [154706]

Jim Knight: The Office of the Schools Commissioner discusses any schools which meet academies criteria with the relevant local authority before any steps are taken to identify sponsors. Academies are, in effect, jointly commissioned by the Department and the relevant local authorities.

Local authorities are increasingly becoming engaged in the strategic planning of multiple academies in their localities, within their wider school rebuilding and transformational strategies. Academies exemplify the new role of local authorities as "commissioners" rather than "providers" of schools. The Government are ready to engage with local authorities who wish to consider multiple academy projects as part of their strategies for transforming educational standards and opportunity.

Academies: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in each English academy *(a)* were admitted on the basis of aptitude, *(b)* were entitled to free school meals and *(c)* secured five grades A-C at GCSE in the most recent period for which figures are available. [150909]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* Academies can admit pupils on the basis of aptitude for certain specialisms on the same basis as other specialist schools. The Department does not collect data on how many pupils are admitted on the basis of aptitude. The proportion of children in each academy entitled to free school meals, and the proportion gaining five or more A*-C at GGSE in 2006 are included in the following table.

Academy name	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C at GCSE in 2006*
The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	47.1	40.2
St. Paul's Academy	25.6	59.1
The Marlowe Academy	29.1	28.0
Grace Academy	28.0	n/a
John Madejski Academy	29.1	n/a
Macmillan Academy[1]	25.5	92.9
Dixons City Academy[1]	7.2	96.9
Paddington Academy	50.8	n/a
The Petchey Academy	47.8	n/a
North Liverpool Academy	39.1	n/a
Westminster Academy	40.9	n/a
Harris Academy Bermondsey	60.6	n/a
The Barnsley Academy	37.3	n/a
Burlington Danes Academy	20.6	n/a
Sheffield Park Academy	36.3	n/a
Sheffield Springs Academy	35.0	n/a
Harris Academy Merton	30.0	n/a
David Young Community Academy	42.1	n/a
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	40.5	n/a
Walthamstow Academy	31.8	n/a
The Gateway Academy	36.3	n/a
Greig City Academy	39.1	60.7
Walsall Academy	11.4	57.4
Unity City Academy	45.0	33.5
The Business Academy Bexley	35.9	32.3
St. Mark's Church of England Academy	27.1	n/a
The City Academy Bristol	44.9	49.7
City of London Academy (Southwark)	34.2	n/a
The King's Academy	25.3	34.8
Manchester Academy	50.0	28.7
The Academy at Peckham	53.1	30.1
Capital City Academy	35.4	31.3
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	37.5	56.7
West London Academy	46.3	47.7
Mossbourne Community Academy	40.6	n/a
Stockley Academy	40.3	31.9
London Academy	41.3	50.9
Northampton Academy	15.7	40.2

Academy name	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C at GCSE in 2006*
Lambeth Academy	43.0	n/a
Sandwell Academy	16.8	n/a
The Harefield Academy	16.0	32.1
Trinity Academy	15.4	33.8
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	44.3	29.3
Salford City Academy	18.0	49.5
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College[1]	21.3	93.6
Landau Forte College	9.6	n/a

[1] Former city technology colleges that have converted to academy status.

Note:

Those academies with n/a against the GCSE result column, were either not open as academies when GCSEs were taken in 2006 or were open, but were new schools with no pupils in year 11.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his policy that academies should follow local authority admissions procedures; and if he will make a statement. [155982]

Jim Knight: Academies are required, by their funding agreements, to comply with admissions law and the Department's admissions codes as though they were maintained schools. This doesn't mean that they must adopt their local authority admission arrangements. Like voluntary-aided and foundation schools, academies are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements in consultation with the local school admissions forum, on which the local authority is represented, and other local admission authorities. They must also be part of the local coordinated application process. Unlike other state funded schools, academies are required to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for their admission arrangements and before making any changes.

Academies: Capital Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of resources allocated to schools capital funding will go to academies in each year from 1999-2000 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [150693]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1377W, which provided details of the capital provision for academies as a proportion of the corresponding figure for all schools up to and including 2007-08. This continues to be the position. There was no spend on academies prior to 2001-02 which is the first year mentioned in that reply, and allocations have not been made beyond 2007-08.

Academies: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons his Department has decided to require academies to follow the national curriculum programmes of study in English, maths and IT; and if he will make a statement. [155983]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State announced on 10 July 2007 that future academies will be required to follow the national curriculum programmes of study in English, maths and ICT. This is different to the previous model whereby academies had to teach English, maths, science and ICT to all pupils and the curriculum had to be broad and balanced. The change was made because the national curriculum as a whole has been made more flexible to accommodate the kind of innovation that academies have enjoyed.

Academies: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the improvement in GCSE results at academies, compared to their predecessor schools, is due to the increased uptake of GNVQ exams; and if he will make a statement. [155964]

Jim Knight: A response to this question could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Academies: Governing Bodies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to require all academies to accept local authority governors on to their governing bodies; and if he will make a statement. [154526]

Jim Knight: All academies are required by their funding agreement to have at least one local authority representative on their governing body, and local authorities acting as co-sponsors of academies will usually have two governors.

Academies: Isle of Sheppey

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the executive responsible for the federated academy on the Isle of Sheppey expects to publish its consultation plans on which specialism will be available for each school site. [155664]

Jim Knight: The September newsletter published by the Project Steering Group for this academy indicated that the dual specialisms of Business and Enterprise and Sport will be available for the whole academy on both of its sites. 10,000 copies have been circulated widely on the Island. The period of formal consultation will conclude in November at which point a Funding Agreement for the Sheppey Academy

should be with us for approval. Full details of consultation and briefing events are included in the September newsletter, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many sponsors of academies have *(a)* not paid and *(b)* delayed paying their full contribution; [153826]

(2) how much is owed to the Government by academy sponsors. [153827]

Jim Knight: The following table shows, in relation to those academies with a signed funding agreement the amount of sponsorship pledged together with the related confirmed capital contribution. Notes 1 and 3 to the table identify those academies where the sponsor contribution has not been paid in full because the total contribution is not yet due to be paid. Delayed building works that have slowed the rate of sponsor contributions are identified by note 4. Significant delays for any other reason, where the Department proposes to engage the trust with a view to bringing the confirmed capital contribution back on profile, are noted at 2.

The difference between the total amount of sponsorship pledged and the total confirmed capital contribution from sponsors, representing the amount due to be paid to Trusts over the remaining lifetime of building projects, is £64.415 million.

£000

Academy with signed funding agreement	*Total sponsorship pledged*	*Total confirmed capital contribution from sponsor to end of August 2007*
Manchester	2,000	[1]1,421
Lambeth	2,000	[1]1,872
Northampton	2,000	[1]943
Paddington	1,500	[1]429
Salford	1,600	[1]214
Barnsley	1,500	[1]27
Walthamstow	1,500	[1]27
Sheffield Springs	1,500	1,500
Sheffield Park	1,000	1,000
Stockport	1,500	[1]202
Peckham	2,000	2,986
Harris Academy South Norwood	2,000	[2]250
Harris Bermondsey	1,500	[3]0
Harris Merton	500	[3]0
Kings	2,000	2,006
Trinity, Doncaster	2,000	2,000
Haberdashers'—Hatcham	705	705
Haberdashers'—Knights	296	296
Marlowe	2,735	[1]2,565
Folkestone	2,250	[1]887
Walsall	2,500	2,565
Sandwell	2,790	[1]2,119
Bexley	2,410	2,462
Greig	2,000	[1]1,664
Unity	2,000	1,948
Capital City, Brent	2,000	1,993
City of London	2,000	2,000
City Academy, Bristol	2,499	[1]1,670
West London, Ealing	2,000	2,000
London, Barnet	1,500	1,490
Mossbourne	2,150	[1]1,631
Stockley	2,000	1,953
St. Francis of Assisi	2,000	[3]1,187
The Harefield	1,500	[4]42
Dixons CTC	651	614
David Young, Leeds	1,500	[2]1,000
Grace, Solihull	2,000	2,000
Westminster	2,000	[3]600
Thomas Deacon	10,500	[3]0
St. Paul's—Greenwich	2,000	[1]200
John Madejski, Reading	2,000	[1]1,926
The Bridge, Hackney	2,000	[4]487
Samworth Enterprise	2,443	[1]1,143
Petchey	2,000	[1]1,921

Academy with signed funding agreement	Total sponsorship pledged	£000 Total confirmed capital contribution from sponsor to end of August 2007
North Liverpool	1,000	[4]0
Bradford Cathedral	1,000	[3]0
Macmillan	1,250	[1]400
Djanogly	0	0
St. Matthew Lewisham	2,000	[4]1,200
Enfield	2,000	[1]56
Slough Langley	2,000	[1]500
Leigh Technology	2,000	[3]0
St. Mary Magdalene—Islington	2,000	[1]1,000
Bristol 2 Withywood	2,000	[3]0
Newcastle Excelsior	2,000	2,020
Corby City	2,000	[3]0
Ashcroft Technology	960	[3]0
Landau Forte College	460	[1]2
Oasis—Immingham	2,000	[3]0
Oasis—Wintringham	2,000	[3]0
Q3—Sandwell	2,000	[3]0
Burlington Danes	1,500	[3]0
Kensington and Chelsea	4,000	[3]0
Brooke Weston	461	[3]0
John Cabot	378	[3]0
St. Mark's Academy—Merton	2,000	[3]0
Total	123,538	59,123

[1] Amount paid up to end August 2007 in accordance with the agreed pattern of instalments.
[2] In discussion with trust with a view to agreeing payment later this year.
[3] None due to be paid up to end August 2007.
[4] Instalment plan to be revised pending re-schedule of building works.
[5] £2 million sponsorship to be invested in endowment fund as opposed to towards capital costs.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his assessment is of the new sponsorship arrangements for academies, with particular reference to co-sponsorship by local authorities; and to what extent academies will remain independent under such arrangements. [153831]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are increasingly becoming engaged in the strategic planning and co-sponsorship of academies in their localities within their wider school rebuilding and transformational strategies. The Government welcome this engagement.

All academies' funding agreements require them to have at least one local authority representative on their governing body, and local authorities acting as co-sponsors will usually have two governors. In order to determine the ethos and leadership of the academy, and ensure clear responsibility and accountability, the private sector or charitable sponsor always appoints the majority of the governors. This is the case even when a local authority is acting as co-sponsor for wider purposes. All academies are run on an independent basis.

Adult Learning Inspectorate Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press officers are employed by the Adult Learning Inspectorate Agency. [154725]

Jim Knight: As part of the move to a single inspectorate for education, children's services and skills within Ofsted, the Adult Learning Inspectorate ceased to operate on 1 April 2007.

Building Schools for the Future: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 91W, on Building Schools for the Future: private finance initiative, whether he plans to use PFI schemes for the procurement of academies. [154116]

Jim Knight: The academies building programme is an integral part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. BSF is the Government's 15-year programme to re-build or refurbish every secondary school in England, and comprises a mix of PFI schemes and conventional capital funding. PFI may be used for the procurement of academies where it is proven to provide value for money and clear benefits.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Information Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press officers are employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service [154677]

Kevin Brennan: This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive,

has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 26 September 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the parliamentary question that you recently tabled.

Cafcass has four staff members in its Communications Team, covering a range of functions. The press office function takes approximately the equivalent of 0.5 to 1 full time member of staff; this work of a press officer is however spread across the whole team.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the incidence of physical violence against children by parents and carers was in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [153939]

Kevin Brennan: The Government collect data on children who became the subject of a child protection plan. In the past this has also meant being placed on a child protection register, although these arrangements are now being altered. Figures are available for the years ending 31 March 1990 to 2001 under the category of physical injury and for years ending 31 March 2002 to 2007 under the category of physical abuse. This information is provided by local authorities and includes cases of children suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm from parents and carers (though it will also include other cases such as those where parents are unable to protect children from others posing a risk of harm to them). This information is set out in the following tables.

Up until year ending 31 March 2001 physical injury was recorded and could also be identified in cases where concerns about children included a mix of different categories. After that point, local authorities ceased reporting mixed categories separately so figures from year ending 31 March 2002 onwards are only available for registrations and child protection plans that are attributed to physical abuse as a single category. In the same year, there was also a change to the registration category where physical injury was redefined as physical abuse. As a result of this change in definition, the figures reported in year ending 31 March 2002 onwards for physical abuse may not be wholly comparable to the figures reported for 'physical injury alone' in preceding years.

Table 1: Children who became the subject of a child protection plan[1] as a result of physical abuse during the year ending 31 March 2002 to 2007

	Number	Percentage[2]
2007	5,100	15
2006	5,100	16
2005	5,500	18
2004	5,700	19
2003	5,700	19
2002	5,300	19

[1] A child may be registered more than once during the year.
[2] Percentage of children who became the subject of a child protection plan as a direct result of physical abuse. Excludes children who are subject to multiple forms of abuse including physical abuse.

Table 2: Children who became the subject of a child protection plan[1] as a result of physical injury during the year ending 31 March 1990 to 2001

	Physical injury alone	Percentage[2]	Total physical injury[3]	Percentage[4]
2001	5,800	22	8,000	30
2000	6,700	23	9,500	32
1999	7,000	23	9,400	31
1998	7,500	25	8,000	33
1997	8,400	29	10,800	38
1996	8,600	30	10,700	38
1995	10,400	34	12,300	40
1994	9,700	34	11,400	40
1993	8,400	34	9,800	40
1992	6,300	26	7,100	29
1991	6,000	21	6,700	24
1990	6,300	24	7,100	26

[1] A child may be registered more than once during the year.
[2] Expressed as a percentage of the total children who became the subject of a child protection plan.
[3] Includes children who have suffered physical injury in conjunction with other categories of abuse. Children may be counted more than once in these mixed categories.
[4] Percentage of children who became the subject of a child protection plan as a result of physical injury alone or in conjunction with other reported forms of abuse.

Children: Databases

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written statement on 25 July 2007, on the electronic common assessment framework, whether Criminal Records Bureau checks and other checks made to personnel authorised to use the system will also be applied to those who are commissioned to service and maintain the system. [154081]

Beverley Hughes: The Government will ensure that the electronic common assessment framework (eCAF) system is secure and that it will comply with stringent Government and international protective security standards. Access to it will be restricted to authorised users, who need to use it as part of their job. There are two types of authorised user: practitioners, who use eCAF to perform their professional roles relating to children; and system administrators, who perform IT-related tasks on the eCAF system itself, or on the data held by eCAF. Both types of user must pass CRB checks and will also be subject to the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS).

Children: Play

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support his Department gives to the provision of opportunities for play for children. [152093]

Kevin Brennan: We recognise fully the benefits of play for children and we continue to take steps to support and promote the provision of opportunities for play. For example, from September 2008, it will be mandatory for all schools and early years providers in Ofsted registered settings to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage—a play-based approach to supporting and improving the wellbeing and development of children from birth to age five. Extended schools will offer additional opportunities for safe, supervised play out of normal school hours.

"Aiming High for Young People" published in July 2007 will support a major expansion of positive activities for young people over the next 10 years. The Department new has joint policy responsibility for play with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and will work closely with that Department and with Communities and Local Government and other Departments to build on the Government's support for play outlined in the "Time for Play" document published by DCMS in 2006. As a first step, the Minister for Sport and I will meet Play England later this month.

Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil to teacher ratio was in English *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [154710]

Jim Knight: In January 2006 the overall pupil to teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary schools was 22.0 and 16.6 in secondary schools for English. In January 2007 the provisional figures in primary schools was 21.8 and 16.5 in secondary schools.

This information is from the Department of Children, Schools and Families school census.

Academies and city technology colleges are not included in the figures.

Classroom Assistants: Training

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on training teachers' assistants in each year since 1997, broken down by local education authority. [154451]

Jim Knight: This information is not held centrally as the employment, deployment and training of support staff, including teaching assistants, is a matter for schools and local authorities to determine as their employers.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146338]

Kevin Brennan: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155877]

Kevin Brennan: This information could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153578]

Kevin Brennan: The proportion of people employed in my Department and its agencies who have declared their disability is 5.9 per cent.

Departments: Families

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to support *(a)* families and *(b)* marriage through his policies; and if he will make a statement. [154712]

Kevin Brennan: We know from evidence that parenting and the quality of adult relationships in families are primary factors in improving children's outcomes; and family and relationship support are an integral part of DCSF family policy and vision. 'Every Parent Matters' and 'Aiming High for Children: Supporting Families' (both published in March 2007) signal our intent to continue to support families through our policies. This has been reinforced by the new Machinery of Government changes putting families in the title of the Department for the first time, moving us beyond arbitrary distinctions between services for children and adults. We are looking at how we should champion families across Government.

We recognise that the traditional family structure has evolved and not all children are born to parents who are married or are raised in a two-parent family. Emerging family policy recognises the personal choices of people in their family lives, and seeks to support and strengthen the relationships they choose to make. We continue to work in partnership with the third sector to deliver our policies and provide high quality services for families.

Departments: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants are working for his Department. [150740]

Jim Knight: The Department has 2,800 full-time equivalent staff.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149040]

Kevin Brennan: The amount spent on overnight accommodation for civil servants in the former Department for Education and Skills for the period July 2006 to June 2007 was £1,046,062.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his Department's submission to the Pay Review Bodies for 2008 to 2011. [151872]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has provided its evidence to the School Teachers' Review Body, covering teachers' pay for the period 2008-11, and this is currently being considered by the Review Body. In addition, the Department has also provided evidence jointly with its social partners, representing teacher unions, associations and employers. Both sets of evidence are available at the following link:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total cost was of performance related pay in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* schools in each year since 1990-91; how much it is expected to be in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [154531]

Jim Knight: The Department was created in June 2007 and will award all salaries on a performance related basis in 2008. Since 1995, when the predecessor Departments received delegated pay responsibility, all salaries have been fully performance related. The staffing levels and paybills for each year are published in the annual departmental reports available in the House of Commons Library.

It is not possible to estimate the cost of performance related pay in schools. Teachers undergo an annual review of performance which contributes to decisions that may be made by their school/employer about their progression on the pay scale or spine range for their grade. Non-teaching school staff are paid under local arrangements with varying discretions to recognise performance.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147528]

Kevin Brennan: 199 members of staff in the Department for Children, Schools and Families (6.9 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153257]

Kevin Brennan: A list of periodicals subscribed to by the DCSF is shown in the following list. Individual teams within DCSF have the option to subscribe to periodicals if they wish, but to extract this information would involve disproportionate cost.

List of periodicals subscribed to by DCSF Library

Accountancy
ACE Bulletin (Advisory Centre for Education)
Adults Learning
American Economic Review
American Journal of Sociology
Autlook (previously called: AUT Bulletin)
Basic Skills Bulletin
Bookseller
British Education Index
British Educational Research Journal
British Journal of Educational Psychology
British Journal of Educational Studies
British Journal of Educational Technology
British Journal of Psychology
British Journal of Sociology
British Journal of Sociology of Education
British Journal of Special Education
Broadsheet (City and Guilds of London Institute) website
Bulletpoint
Cambio 16
Cambridge Journal of Economics
Campaigns Newsletter (Child Poverty Action Group)
Case Notes (formerly: Parents and Schools)
Catholic Herald (website)
CBI Industrial Trends Survey
CEDEFOP Info
Centrepiece
Child Abuse Review
Child: Care, Health and Development
Child Education
Children and Society
Children Now (website)
Choice
Church Times
CJM (Criminal Justice Matters)
Community Care (website)
Computer Education
Computer Weekly (website)
Computing (website)
Counselling and Psychotherapy Research Journal (formerly: Counselling)
Current Sociology
Curriculum Journal
Deafness and Education International
Disability Now
Dot Net (.Net)
Drug Link

E-Learning Age: the magazine for the learning organisation (incorporating KM News)
E-Learning Today (formerly Interactive: Managing ICT in Schools)
Early Childhood Research and Practice
Early Education
Early Years Educator: EYE
Econometrics Journal
Economic Journal
Economic Policy Reforms: Going for Growth
Economic and Labour Market Review (formerly Economic Trends)
Economics of Education Review
Economist
Education 3-13
Education and Health
Education and Training Parliamentary Monitor
Education Economics
Education Journal
Education Review
Education Today (formerly: Educational Times)
Education Week (USA)
Educational and Child Psychology
Educational Computing and Technology
Educational Management Administration and Leadership (formerly Educational Management and Administration)
Educational Policy
Educational Research
Educational Researcher
Educational Review
Educational Studies
Employer's Law
Employment and Earnings
European Journal of Special Needs Education
European Journal of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
Evaluation
Evaluation and Research in Education
Evidence and Policy: A journal of Research Debate and Practice
Exceptional Children
L'Express
Forum for Promoting 3-19 Education
Government Computing
Lords Hansard
Commons Hansard
Harvard Business Review
Harvard Educational Review
Health and Safety Monitor
Health Service Journal
Higher Education: the international journal of higher education and educational planning
Higher Education Management and Policy
Higher Education Quarterly
Higher Education Review
Higher Quality
History
History Today
House Magazine
House of Commons Weekly Information Bulletin
Human Resource Management Journal
IDS Employment Law Brief
IDS HR Studies
IDS Pay Report (formerly IDS Report)
Improving Schools
Information Today
Information World Review
Interactive: Managing ICT in Schools (see E-Learning Today)
International Financial Statistics (IMF)
International Journal of Early Years Education
International Journal of Social Research Methodology
International Labour Review
IRS Employment Review (formerly: Industrial Relations Review and Report)
Journal of Communication Management
Journal of Computer Assisted Learning
Journal of Early Childhood Literacy
Journal of Early Childhood Research
Journal of Economic Literature
Journal of Economic Perspectives
Journal of Education and Work (formerly: British Journal of Education and Work)
Journal of Education Policy
Journal of Educational Research
Journal of Labor Economics
Journal of Librarianship and Information Science
Journal of Management Studies
Journal of Moral Education
Journal of Organisational Behaviour
Journal of Research into Special Educational Needs
Journal of Social Policy
Journal of Special Education
Journal of Vocational Education and Training
Junior Education
KM Review
Labour Force Survey Quarterly Supplement
Labour Market Statistics: First Release
Labour Market Trends (see Economic and Labour Market Review)
Labour Research
LDR (National College for School Leadership)
Linguist
Literacy (formerly Reading, Literacy and Language)
Literacy Today
Local Economy
Local Government Chronicle
London Gazette Supplement
London Review of Education
Management in Education
Management Learning
Management Today
Managing Information (Aslib)
Managing Schools Today (previously called: School Governor)
Marketing Week
The MJ: The Management Journal for Local Authority Business
Le Monde de l'Education
Monthly Digest of Statistics (ONS)
National Institute Economic Review
Nature
New Nation
New Scientist (website)
New Statesman

Newscheck (Careers and Occupational Information Centre)
Newsweek International
NFER News (National Foundation for Education Research)
Nursery and Childcare Market News
Nursery World
OECD Economic Outlook
OECD Economic Studies
Open Learning
Oxford Review of Economic Policy
Oxford Review of Education
PDT—Professional Development Today
People Management
Personal Computer World (website)
Personnel Today (website)
Le Point (website)
Policy and Politics
Policy Studies
Political Quarterly
Population Trends
Poverty (Child Poverty Action Group)
Practical Funding for Schools
Practical Research in Education (formerly Topic)
Private Eye
Professionalism in Practice (formerly: Professional Teacher)
Project
Project Manager Today
Prospect
Psychologist
Public
Public Policy and Administration
Public Policy Research (formerly New Economy)
Qualitative Research
Quality in Higher Education
Race and Class
Race Equality Teaching (formerly: Multicultural Teaching)
RE Today
Research in Education
Research in Post Compulsory Education
Research Intelligence: BERA Newsletter
Research into Higher Education Abstracts access via Educational Research Abstracts
Research Papers in Education
Review of Educational Research
Salisbury Review
School Effectiveness and School Improvement
School Leadership
School Leadership and Management (formerly School Organisation)
Scientific American (website)
Sex Education
Social Policy and Society
Social Sciences—News from ESRC
Sociological Review
Sociology of Education Abstracts see Educational Research Abstracts
Special Children
The Spectator (website)
Spectrum
Der Spiegel
Strategic HR Review
Studies in Higher Education
Studies in the Education of Adults (previously called: Studies in Adult Education)
Support for Learning
Sure Start
The Teacher
Teachers magazine (DCSF split into Primary and Secondary from 2001)
Teaching Thinking
Teaching Today (NASUWT)
Technology in Education
Technology, Pedagogy and Education (previously called: Journal of Information Technology for Teacher Education, 1992-2002)
Time Magazine
Time Out
Times Educational Supplement
Times Higher Education Supplement
Times Literary Supplement
Tips and Advice Internet
Topic see Practical Research in Education
Training and Employment (French Dimensions)
Training Journal (formerly Training Officer)
Tribune
UK Economic Accounts
Under Five (previously called: Contact or Under Five Contact)
The Voice (website)
Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies
Welfare Rights Bulletin
Which?
Whitehall and Westminster World
Work Employment and Society
Working Brief
Young People Now
Youth and Policy
0-19 Zero 2 Nineteen

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153258]

Kevin Brennan: Newspaper and magazine purchase is recorded under the general heading of Books and Newspapers.

Details of expenditure on books, newspapers and magazines incurred by the Department over the last financial year are as follows;

2006-07: £166,000

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148794]

Kevin Brennan: The main incentive the Department offers are interest-free loans for season tickets for travel to work. Use of public transport is encouraged by departmental policies including limited car parking, free cycle parking with showers available for staff to

use before starting work, flexible working, using public transport during the course of travel and making use of travel websites and information services, such as Transport Direct. Staff are also informed about local transport initiatives and promotions. Where the location or nature of the work makes public transport use impractical for staff, car sharing and the use of low emission vehicles is encouraged.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153253]

Kevin Brennan: There have been no compulsory redundancies in the period.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153254]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to develop staff to reach their full potential and believe that staff away days and team building exercises are beneficial in helping them achieve that.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153256]

Kevin Brennan: In the 2006-07 financial year my Department spent £46,691 on legal fees in defending employment tribunal cases.

Education: Hearing Impaired

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the amount spent on the education of deaf children in Norfolk in each of the last five years; [150867]

(2) if he will assess the effectiveness of the process for *(a)* the education of deaf children and *(b)* the appeal process against allocation decisions. [150868]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information on the amount spent on the education of particular groups of pupils with special educational needs (SEN). However, the following table shows information relating to budgeted expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs in Norfolk since 2003-04:

	£
2003-04	42,233,000
2004-05	44,946,000
2005-06	48,604,000
2006-07	51,472,000
2007-08	[1]60,953,000

1 Provisional

Source:

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We do not make a separate assessment of the effectiveness of the education of deaf children. All pupils both with and without SEN are assessed at the end of key stages of learning and pupils with a statement of SEN have their needs reviewed annually. The statutory framework and the SEN code of practice should ensure that all children with special needs have those needs identified and assessed and receive appropriate support. We are currently in discussion with deaf and hearing impairment organisations about school attainment data for this group of pupils.

We have no plans to review the effectiveness of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST), which provides an independent and impartial appeal process against local authority decisions about the education of children with hearing impairments and other special educational needs. In the tribunal year 2005-06 the tribunal decided 31 cases in which hearing impairment was identified as the children's primary difficulty. The tribunal upheld 20 of 26 cases relating to school placement.

Under part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), schools must not discriminate against prospective disabled pupils in their admissions arrangements and should make reasonable adjustments to their admissions policies and procedures so that prospective disabled pupils are not disadvantaged by the school's admission arrangements. If a child is refused entry for other reasons, such as the school being full, then they have the same right to appeal as other children.

Local education appeals panels consider claims of discrimination in relation to admissions to, and permanent exclusions from, local authority maintained schools. SENDIST hears other claims about schools under the DDA.

Education: Voucher Schemes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has made an analysis of the potential use of school vouchers in the primary and secondary school system; and if he will make a statement. [154613]

Jim Knight: The Government have not made any analysis of the potential use of school vouchers in the primary and secondary school system.

European Indicators Project

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure full participation in the European Indicators Project by official bodies and UK assessment organisations; [154220]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the work under way in the UK in relation to language and social inclusion through the Asset languages programme and UK Languages Ladder initiative *(a)* is better known across the European Union and *(b)* is taken into consideration as arrangements are made to operationalise the European Indicators Project as agreed by the Council of Ministers in Barcelona (2002). [154196]

Jim Knight: The European Indicators Project is going through a competitive tender process, and any official body or UK assessment organisation could have submitted a bid on their own or as part of a consortium. We would expect that whoever wins the tender would work with appropriate organisations with relevant expertise as they develop the project.

The Languages Ladder/Asset languages scheme offers assessment in 25 languages, including a wide range of community languages. The Languages Ladder levels have been mapped against the Common European Framework.

The National Director for Languages and the Project Director for the Languages Ladder have made presentations at both Council of Europe and European Union events, promoting the Languages Ladder/Asset languages scheme, and will continue to do so. Cambridge ESOL—who have developed Asset languages qualifications with OCR as part of Cambridge Assessment—are members of the Association of Languages Testers in Europe and have made formal presentations on Asset languages at international conferences. The Languages Ladder and Asset languages also featured as an example of good practice in the VALEUR (Valuing All Languages in Europe) project which looked at language diversity in Europe and opportunities to gain qualifications in community languages.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils were entitled to free school meals in each local education authority in 2006-07, ranked from highest to lowest; and if he will make a statement. [152142]

Jim Knight: Information on percentages of pupils entitled to free school meals in each local authority, ranked highest to lowest, in 2006-07 is shown in the following tables.

School meal eligibility[1] in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools January 2007 (provisional)—ranked by local authority area, England

Maintained nursery and primary schools[1]	
	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Tower Hamlets	52.4
Islington	42.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	42.2
Camden	42.1
Manchester	40.5
Hackney	38.3
Kensington and Chelsea	37.7
Lambeth	37.3
Westminster	35.3
Southwark	33.6
Birmingham	33.1
Haringey	32.0
Greenwich	31.0
Liverpool	30.3
Newham	29.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	29.1
Salford	28.7
Knowsley	28.1
Wandsworth	27.5
Middlesbrough	27.3
Brent	27.3
Lewisham	26.4
Nottingham	26.4
South Tyneside	25.8
Stoke-on-Trent	25.8
Blackpool	25.3
Enfield	25.2
Waltham Forest	24.7
Wirral	24.6
Barking and Dagenham	24.0
Leicester	23.0
Rochdale	23.0
Ealing	22.6
Blackburn with Darwen	22.3
Luton	22.1
Hounslow	21.6
Oldham	21.4
Hartlepool	21.3
Bristol, City of	21.2
Croydon	21.0
Southampton	20.9
Redcar and Cleveland	20.8
Halton	20.5
Sandwell	20.1
Coventry	20.1
Bradford	20.1
Wolverhampton	19.9
Gateshead	19.8
Walsall	19.6
Sunderland	19.3
St. Helens	19.2
Derby	19.2
Barnet	19.1
North East Lincolnshire	18.9
Leeds	18.7
Durham	18.3
Darlington	18.1
Isle of Wight	18.0
Redbridge	17.8
Telford and Wrekin	17.7
Doncaster	17.7
Rotherham	17.0
Southend-on-Sea	17.0
Barnsley	16.9
Hillingdon	16.8

School meal eligibility[1] in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools January 2007 (provisional)—ranked by local authority area, England

Maintained nursery and primary schools[1]

	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Sheffield	16.8
Harrow	16.6
Stockton-on-Tees	16.5
Bolton	16.4
Plymouth	16.4
Peterborough	16.4
Tameside	16.3
Slough	16.2
North Tyneside	16.0
Torbay	15.9
Brighton and Hove	15.9
Reading	15.9
Kirklees	15.8
Portsmouth	15.8
Dudley	15.7
Wakefield	15.6
Sefton	15.0
Calderdale	14.8
Kingston upon Hull, City of	14.8
Wigan	14.6
Bury	14.2
Thurrock	13.7
Norfolk	13.3
North Lincolnshire	13.2
Milton Keynes	13.1
Lancashire	13.0
Sutton	12.8
Medway	12.8
Cumbria	12.4
Derbyshire	12.0
Merton	11.9
Nottinghamshire	11.9
Northumberland	11.7
Bromley	11.7
Havering	11.3
East Sussex	11.1
Stockport	11.1
Kent	11.1
Solihull	11.0
Cornwall	10.9
Bexley	10.9
Trafford	10.7
Bedfordshire	10.5
North Somerset	10.4
Bournemouth	10.3
Cheshire	10.2
Suffolk	10.1
Staffordshire	10.1
Essex	9.9
York	9.7
Swindon	9.7
Warwickshire	9.7
Devon	9.6
Bath and North East Somerset	9.5
Warrington	9.5
Gloucestershire	9.4

School meal eligibility[1] in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools January 2007 (provisional)—ranked by local authority area, England

Maintained nursery and primary schools[1]

	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Worcestershire	9.1
Cambridgeshire	9.0
Oxfordshire	9.0
Shropshire	8.9
Kingston upon Thames	8.8
Hampshire	8.6
Richmond upon Thames	8.5
Somerset	8.1
Hertfordshire	8.0
East Riding of Yorkshire	8.0
North Yorkshire	7.9
Surrey	7.4
South Gloucestershire	7.4
Lincolnshire	7.3
West Berkshire	7.3
Herefordshire	7.2
Leicestershire	7.2
Northamptonshire	7.2
Wiltshire	6.7
Windsor and Maidenhead	6.6
Bracknell Forest	6.5
Poole	5.4
West Sussex	5.2
Dorset	4.9
Buckinghamshire	4.9
Rutland	4.5
Wokingham	4.3
Isles of Scilly	x
City of London[4]	n/a

Maintained secondary schools[2]

	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Tower Hamlets	58.8
Islington	41.4
Newham	39.2
Manchester	38.6
Lambeth	37.4
Hackney	37.3
Haringey	33.8
Camden	33.4
Knowsley	33.3
Birmingham	31.9
Southwark	31.9
Middlesbrough	31.8
Westminster	29.7
Greenwich	28.1
Nottingham	27.9
Liverpool	27.8
Barking and Dagenham	27.7
Kensington and Chelsea	26.6
Lewisham	25.7
Ealing	25.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	25.3
Waltham Forest	24.8
Wandsworth	24.0
Bradford	23.7
Rochdale	23.4

	Maintained secondary schools[2]
	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Salford	23.3
South Tyneside	23.1
Blackburn with Darwen	22.7
Brent	22.6
Wirral	22.0
Leicester	21.7
Blackpool	21.4
Luton	21.3
Sandwell	20.3
Newcastle upon Tyne	20.2
Oldham	20.0
Enfield	19.7
Stoke-on-Trent	19.2
Redcar and Cleveland	19.2
Harrow	19.2
Wolverhampton	18.9
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	18.9
Hartlepool	18.5
Croydon	18.4
Hounslow	18.3
Halton	18.1
Bristol, City of	17.1
Telford and Wrekin	17.0
St. Helens	16.9
Gateshead	16.9
Coventry	16.9
Hillingdon	16.8
Tameside	16.8
Walsall	16.8
Southampton	16.3
Barnsley	16.2
North East Lincolnshire	16.0
Redbridge	16.0
Leeds	16.0
Stockton-on-Tees	15.8
Richmond upon Thames	15.6
Derby	15.6
Peterborough	15.6
Durham	15.5
Kirklees	15.5
Dudley	15.3
Barnet	15.0
Isle of Wight	15.0
Brighton and Hove	14.8
Bolton	14.8
Portsmouth	14.7
Rotherham	14.6
Sefton	14.5
Sheffield	14.3
Sunderland	13.9
Darlington	13.8
Doncaster	13.8
Bury	13.6
Slough	13.5
Wigan	13.3
Wakefield	12.8
Calderdale	12.4
Merton	12.2
Torbay	11.7
Milton Keynes	11.7
Lancashire	11.6
Reading	11.4
Nottinghamshire	11.4
Stockport	11.3
Plymouth	11.2
North Lincolnshire	11.1
North Tyneside	11.0
Thurrock	10.7
Southend-on-Sea	10.7
Cumbria	10.2
Northumberland	10.1
Solihull	10.1
Bournemouth	10.0
Norfolk	10.0
East Sussex	9.7
Bromley	9.6
Cornwall	9.4
Havering	9.4
Medway	9.1
Derbyshire	9.1
Trafford	8.7
Bedfordshire	8.7
North Somerset	8.5
Suffolk	8.4
Swindon	8.4
Bexley	8.1
Worcestershire	8.0
Devon	8.0
Cheshire	8.0
York	8.0
Kingston upon Thames	7.9
Kent	7.9
Essex	7.8
Staffordshire	7.7
Somerset	7.6
Herefordshire	7.5
Cambridgeshire	7.4
Oxfordshire	7.3
Warrington	7.3
Sutton	7.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	7.2
Shropshire	6.0
Warwickshire	6.8
Lincolnshire	6.5
Hertfordshire	6.4
Hampshire	6.4
Gloucestershire	6.4
South Gloucestershire	8.1
Bath and North East Somerset	6.0
North Yorkshire	5.9
Dorset	5.9
West Sussex	5.8
Leicestershire	5.5
Northamptonshire	5.5
Buckinghamshire	5.4
Surrey	5.4
Poole	5.3
West Berkshire	5.0
Wiltshire	4.8
Wokingham	4.7
Bracknell Forest	4.7
Rutland	4.6

Maintained secondary schools[2]

	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Windsor and Maidenhead	4.1
City of London	[3] [4]
Isles of Scilly	[3] x

x = Based on less than three pupils.
n/a = Not available.
[1] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Not applicable. No schools of this type.
[4] There is one maintained primary school in City of London local authority. When the provisional freeze of the school census database was taken this school had not provided its data which means provisional 2007 figures are not available for City of London local authority.
Source:
School Census

Further Education: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department collects on the proportion of pupils aged 16 to 18 years in *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* school sixth forms from highly deprived groups. [154338]

Jim Knight: Information is available using matched administrative data and eligibility for free school meals at age 15 as a proxy for deprivation. Of those 16-18 year olds in further education colleges and maintained school sixth forms in 2005/06, 13 per cent. and 7 per cent. respectively were eligible for and claiming free school meals at age 15.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to bring funding levels for 16 to 18-year-olds in further education colleges up to the funding levels in schools; and if he will make a statement. [154008]

Jim Knight: The LSC has made a series of changes to funding arrangements which have already reduced the gap by 5 per cent. Further work is already in hand that will reduce the gap by a further 3 per cent. from 2008.

Changes made include increasing college funding rates by 1 per cent. more than school sixth form funding rates in 2004/05 and 2005/06; removing, from 2006/07, in-year adjustment for school sixth forms to bring them into line with college funding arrangements; and, from 2006/07, collecting pupil-level data from school sixth forms on retention and attainment.

GCE A-Level: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of whether absolute A-level standards have changed over the last 20 years, pursuant to the comments of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education; and if he will make a statement. [154786]

Jim Knight: A-levels, like other qualifications, are tightly regulated and standards monitored by the independent Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The Committee on Examination Standards chaired by the Director for Education at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) concluded in 2004 that no examination system at the school or other level is so tightly or carefully managed.

Claims that A-levels have got easier have been investigated and refuted on numerous occasions since the 1990s, first by Ofsted and then by QCA. It is not possible to make a simple comparison between exam papers from one or two decades ago with papers today: pupils learn different things today because the world is a different place, with employers demanding different skills. The improvements we have seen in success rates at A level are a result of record investment, 30,000 extra teachers, double the number of support staff and billions invested in rebuilding crumbling schools. The further improvements planned for A-level as part of our 14-19 reforms, to be introduced in 2008, will provide further stretch and challenge for the most able pupils and ensure A-levels remain robust qualifications that are respected internationally. Success at A-level today is no less demanding than it was in the past.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set a target for 80 per cent. of pupils to pass five or more GCSEs at A-C grade by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [154714]

Jim Knight: Standards in secondary schools have risen dramatically. 2007 data are not yet available but in 2006 58.5 per cent. of pupils achieved five good GCSEs—an increase of 13.4 percentage points since 1997. Over 86,000 more pupils achieved five good GCSEs last year compared with 1997 and 62,000 more achieved five good GCSEs including English and maths compared with 1997. We are on track to meet the 2008 target of 60 per cent. of pupils achieving five good GCSEs and we expect that healthy trajectory to continue.

Targets are an essential part of the Government's commitment to raising educational standards. The existing set of public service agreement (PSA) targets linked to raising attainment covers the period up to 2008. We expect to be announcing shortly a new set of PSA targets for the spending review period up to 2011.

Home Education: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of children educated at home who were entered for GCSEs/A-levels in each of the last three years; and what assessment he has made of how their results compared with those educated at school. [154756]

Jim Knight: We have not made any estimates of the proportion of children educated at home who were entered for public examinations nor how their results compared with those educated in school.

Literacy: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding *(a)* is and *(b)* is planned to be made available for initiatives that encourage parents to assist their children in learning to read. [154017]

Beverley Hughes: The Department is currently funding Booktrust £8.7 million to deliver Bookstart and £1.22 million to deliver Booktime in 2007-08.

Bookstart delivers book packs to babies aged between six to nine months, 18 months and three years. By encouraging parents and carers to become more actively involved with their child's learning and development through the sharing of books, Bookstart seeks to improve children's communication, language and literacy skills and to improve children's personal, social and emotional development.

The new Booktime initiative will enable every child entering a reception class in autumn 2007 to receive a free copy of FunnyBones by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. Booktime promotes reading for pleasure and encourages parents and carers to read aloud to their children and help foster a love of reading at this key stage in their child's education and development.

The new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is responsible for family literacy, language and numeracy which has been a national initiative since 1994. This initiative is designed to enable parents and their children to improve their literacy and numeracy skills together. That Department will be developing a family literacy, language and numeracy programme (with a focus on literacy and numeracy) for parents of children aged 0 to four, based on the early years foundation stage. It will also be developing information packs for use by parents with literacy, language and numeracy skills needs to help them maximise the potential of the free books to be given to five and 11-year-old children in the 2007 autumn term.

Ofsted: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press officers are employed by Ofsted. [154556]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 September 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The Press Office currently has 5 staff in post: 1 Head of News, 1 Senior Press officer and 3 Press Officers.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Parenting Orders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parenting orders were issued as a consequence of pupil non-attendance at schools in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [153970]

Kevin Brennan: The Department started to collect data regarding parenting orders (in cases of non-attendance and exclusion from school) from September 2004. Between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007, local authorities reported 1,183 parenting orders being made by the courts following a prosecution for failing to ensure regular school attendance. The data are collected in period three times a year as follows:

	Number
1 September 2004 to 31 December 2004	130
1 January 2005 to 1 April 2005	96
2 April 2005 to 31 July 2005	201
1 August 2005 to 31 December 2005	184
1 January 2006 to 21 April 2006	98
22 April 2006 to 1 September 2006	223
2 September 2006 to 31 December 2006	143
1 January 2007 to 13 April 2007	108
Total number of parenting orders issued	1,183

Additional data on parental responsibility measures are provided at local authority level and are published at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolattendance/otherinitiatives/Data.cfm

Primary Education: Mathematics

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria the review of primary and early years mathematics teaching led by Sir Peter Williams will adopt for giving weight to submissions received. [154606]

Jim Knight: It will be for Sir Peter Williams to determine what weight he gives to submissions to the review of mathematics teaching in primary schools and early years settings. However, Sir Peter Williams will consider all submissions received and there will be opportunities for a wide range of stakeholders to contribute. Specific focus will be given to those submissions which relate directly to the terms of reference for the review, which are as follows:

Through examination of the available evidence including international best practice and through engagement with the teaching profession, the Primary Maths Review will consider and make recommendations in the following areas:

What is the most effective pedagogy of maths teaching in primary schools and early years settings. That consideration should include instructional methodologies, teaching and learning strategies, and lesson designs that are most effective in helping children to progress in their learning.

What range of provision best supports children across the full ability range, including the most gifted. The highest priority should be given to those who are not progressing fast enough to reach national expectations. The review should specifically make recommendations to inform the development of an early (age 5 to 7) intervention programme for children who are failing to master the basics of numeracy—"Every Child Counts"—as recently announced by the Prime Minister.

What conceptual and subject knowledge of mathematics should be expected of primary school teachers and early years practitioners, and how should initial teaching training and continuing professional development be improved to secure that knowledge.

What is the most effective design and sequencing of the mathematics curriculum. Recommendations in this area should inform a future review of the primary curriculum as a whole.

How should parents and families best be helped to support young children's mathematical development.

Primary Education: Play

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average length of time per week children at key stage 1 spend on free play. [153838]

Jim Knight: We do not collect information on the average length of time per week children at key stage 1 spend on free play.

Private Education: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his latest estimate is of the level of inflation in private sector school fees; and if he will make a statement; [154617]

(2) what benchmarking analysis he has conducted of the average level of annual fees for schools in the private sector in England, broken down by *(a)* (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools and *(b)* (i) boarding and (ii) non-boarding schools in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [154708]

Jim Knight: As part of the annual school census of independent schools my Department collects information related to the lowest and highest annual fee charged per pupil. We do not project inflation increases in school fees, nor have we undertaken any analysis of the historic level of independent school fees. These fees are a matter for individual schools and are just one of the factors parents consider when looking at which schools meet their particular circumstances.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fixed period exclusions there were per pupil in 2005-06. [154279]

Jim Knight: The readily available information is given in the table.

For the 2005-06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions was collected from secondary schools only. For the 2006-07 school year this coverage will extend to primary and special schools.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by type of school—England, 2003-04 to 2005-06[3]

	2003-04[3,4]	2004-05[4]	2005-06[5]
Primary schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	41,300	43,720	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	12	11	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	0.97	1.04	n/a
Secondary schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	288,040	329,680	343,840
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	84	85	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	8.66	9.94	10.40
Special schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	15,170	16,170	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	4	4	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	17.45	18.91	n/a
All schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	344,510	389,560	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	100	100	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	4.49	5.12	n/a

n/a = not available

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained special schools. Excludes non-maintained special schools.

[3] In 2003-04, information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time.

[4] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from Termly Exclusion Survey returns.

[5] For the 2005-06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was collected via the School Census for the first time (the Termly Exclusions Survey has been discontinued). For exclusions during 2006-07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools.

[6] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number.

[7] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will abolish the right of appeal to local education authorities in respect of pupils who have been permanently excluded from school; how many permanent exclusions were overturned on appeal in each year since 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [154530]

Jim Knight: We have no plans to abolish independent exclusion appeal panels. We back head teachers' authority where pupils' behaviour warrants exclusion and have made it clear that, in cases where pupils are very disruptive or violent, appeal panels should not normally overturn head teachers' decisions. But we believe it is right that, in a matter as important as permanent exclusion from school, parents should have

a right of appeal. Without that right there would be more court cases, with increased costs to all concerned. The information on the number of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil since 1996-97 is set out in the following table.

	Number of appeals heard	*Number of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil*
1996-97	1,130	230
1997-98	1,010	200
1998-99	960	220
1999-2000	860	320
2000-01	980	310
2001-02	1,060	260
2002-03	990	210
2003-04	1,050	220
2004-05	1,030	220
2005-06	980	240

Source:
School Exclusion Appeals Survey

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which 20 secondary schools in England had the *(a)* most and *(b)* least funding per pupil in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [150836]

Jim Knight: The requested information for 2007-08 is shown in the following tables. Local authorities are responsible for determining the funding of the schools in their area through the local funding formula, in consultation with the Schools Forum. There are also a number of factors which can influence the per pupil funding of a school, including whether the school is about to open or close, its size and age-range. For this reason, additional contextual information has been included.

(a) The 20 secondary schools with highest revenue funding 2007-08 allocated via budget share plus grants per pupil

Local authority name	*School name*	*DfES number*	*Total budget share plus grants allocated to school (£)*	*Open/closed indicator*	*Age range*	*January 2007 pupil count (FTE registered pupils) as reported on S52*
Bristol City of	Redland Green	4802	30,470	New provision opened 1 September 2006	16 to 19	14
Hertfordshire	Yavneh College	4802	10,880	New opened 1 September 2006	11 to 18	93
Tower Hamlets	Sir John Cass Foundation and Redcoat Church of England Secondary School	4722	9,290	Open	11 to 18	869
Tower Hamlets	Mulberry School for Girls	4242	8,980	Open	11 to 18	1,050
Tower Hamlets	Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate Girls School	4726	8,910	Open	11 to 18	728
Somerset	Brymore School	5401	8,480	Open	13 to 17	183
Hillingdon	Ruislip High School	4023	8,460	New provision opened 1 September 2006	11 to 18	150
Lancashire	Hornby High School	4170	8,450	Open	11 to 16	174
Tower Hamlets	George Green's School	4505	0,350	Open	11 to 19	1,012
Tower Hamlets	Raine's Foundation School	5400	8,330	Open	11 to 18	730
Brent	Cardinal Hinsley Mathematics and Computing College	5407	8,310	Open	11 to 19	465
Lancashire	Skerton Community High School	4005	8,200	Open	11 to 10	255
Tower Hamlets	Central Foundation Girls' School	4507	7,860	Open	11 to 18	1,158
Hackney	The Skinners' Company's School for Girls	4686	7,560	Open but proposed to close 31 August 2010	11 to 18	720
Lancashire	City of Preston High School	4004	7,390	Open	11 to 16	418
Tower Hamlets	St Paul's Way Community School	4277	7,330	Open	11 to 16	999
Hackney	Hackney Free and Parochial Church of England Secondary School Specialist Sports College	4697	7,290	Open	11 to 16	715
Stockton-on-Tees	Bishopsgarth School	4106	7,260	Open	11 to 16	484

(a) The 20 secondary schools with highest revenue funding 2007-08 allocated via budget share plus grants per pupil

Local authority name	*School name*	*DfES number*	*Total budget share plus grants allocated to school (£)*	*Open/closed indicator*	*Age range*	*January 2007 pupil count (FTE registered pupils) as reported on S52*
Hammersmith and Fulham	Hurlingham and Chelsea Secondary School	4319	7,260	Open	11 to 16	546
Plymouth	Parkside Community Technology College	4193	7,250	Open	11 to 16	196

(b) The 20 secondary schools with lowest revenue funding 2007-08 allocated via budget share plus grants per pupil

Local authority name	*School name*	*DfES Number*	*Total budget share plus grants allocated to school (£)*	*Open/Closed Indicator*	*Age Range*	*January 2007 Pupil Count (FTE registered pupils) as reported on S52*
Leicestershire	Brockington College	4506	3,340	Open	11 to 14	792
Leicestershire	Lutterworth High School	4015	3,360	Open	11 to 14	729
Leicestershire	Thomas Estley Community College	4057	3,370	Open	11 to 14	732
Leicestershire	Kibworth High School and Community Centre	4055	3,400	Open	11 to 14	7oa
Leicestershire	Brookvale High School	4051	3,400	Open	11 to 14	673
Leicestershire	Welland Park Community College	4017	3,430	Open	11 to 14	680
Leicestershire	Humphrey Perkins High School	4000	3,440	Open	11 to 14	15
Cambridgeshire	Soham Village College	5415	3,440	Open	11 to 16	1,337
Leicestershire	Ivanhoe College	4028	3,470	Open	11 to 14	881
Cambridgeshire	Swavesey Village College	4007	3,480	Open	11 to 16	1,174
Buckinghamshire	The Cottesloe School	5407	3,490	Open	11 to 18	1,100
Buckinghamshire	John Colet School	4044	3,500	Open	11 to 18	1,018
Hampshire	Brookfield Community School and Language College	4136	3,500	Open	11 to 16	1,754
Leicestershire	Hastings High School	4020	3,520	Open	11 to 14	522
Hampshire	Thomden School	4175	3,530	Open	11 to 10	1,383
Derbyshire	John Port School	5405	3,540	Open	11 to 18	2,032
Cambridgeshire	Linton Village College	5416	3,540	Open	11 to 16	798
Buckinghamshire	Buckingham School	4004	3,540	Open	11 to 18	1,041
Leicestershire	Market Bosworth High School and Community College	4016	3,540	Open	11 to 14	614
Leicestershire	John Ferneley High School	4044	3,540	Open	11 to 14	570

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the latest figures for funding per pupil in each English school; and if he will make a statement. [154524]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will take steps to allocate higher levels of funding to school pupils from deprived backgrounds; and if he will make a statement; [154612]

(2) if he will make a statement on his plans to reform deprivation-related funding for schools. [154525]

Jim Knight: Funding for local authorities within the Dedicated Schools Grant includes an element for deprivation as detailed in my previous response to the hon. Member's earlier question answered on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1405W.

A review is currently under way to look at how much funding each local authority is passing on to schools on the basis of deprivation and how this can be improved where necessary. As part of the process Departmental officials will be collecting baseline information regarding the distribution in 2007-08 in order that change can be tracked in future years.

Pupils: Work Experience

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many work experience schemes are run by schools in each *(a)* Government region and *(b)* local education authority. [153828]

Jim Knight: The Department does not routinely collect this information. Each year the vast majority of more than half a million key stage 4 (14-16) pupils in all areas go on work experience placements. Work experience is the single biggest, co-ordinated partnership between employers and schools. Surveys show that work experience is valued by employers, schools and—most importantly—learners. Ofsted reported that four out of five pupils are positive about their work experience, and that three quarters of placements are well matched to pupils' interests and capabilities.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press officers are employed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. [154428]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority employs three full-time and three part-time press officers.

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will break down the public cost of raising the education leaving age to 18 years by main subheading. [154715]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 303W, in which the estimated costs of raising the participation age are set out by main category. The estimated costs of raising the participation age are also set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment published alongside the Green Paper on 22 March. This can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/RIA%20[FINAL]%20word%20version.pdf

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on phasing the raising of the education leaving age to 18; and if he will make a statement. [154758]

Jim Knight: We said in the Green Paper "Rising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16", published in March, that we propose to introduce a new requirement for young people to participate in education or training post-16 in a phased way, moving first to a requirement to participate until age 17, before subsequently requiring participation until 18. We judge that the best moment to raise the participation age to 17 would be 2013, and we would then propose to raise the participate age to 18 in 2015.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools provide a school meals service; what estimate he has made of the number of pupils eating school meals; what assessment he has made of the financial viability of the school meals service in secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [154785]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect this information. However, the School Food Trust's (SFT) second annual survey of take-up of school meals in England (published in September 2007), which is based on responses from 104 local authorities, reports that, in 2006-07, 90.7 per cent. of primary schools and 57.6 per cent. of secondary schools offered school lunches; and that 41 per cent. of primary pupils and 38 per cent. of secondary pupils ate school lunches.

In addition, the Local Authority Caterers Association's (LACA) 'National School Meals Survey 2007' which is based on responses from 94 LACA member authorities, reports that 65 per cent. of local authority caterers forecast a deficit on 2006-07 trading; and that 51 per cent. forecast a deficit on 2007-08 trading.

Increasing take-up of school lunches is a priority for my Department and for the SFT.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will list the planned changes to school meal standards in England in each year from 2007 to 2011; and if he will make a statement; [155979]

(2) how many school lunches were served in England in each year from 1996-97 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [155980]

(3) if he will make a statement on the Government's progress towards their target of increased take-up of school meals. [155981]

Kevin Brennan: Standards for school food are being introduced to the following timetable:

September 2006: food-based standards for school lunches;

September 2007: food-based standards for all food provided in schools;

September 2008: nutrient-based standards for school lunches in primary schools; and

September 2009: nutrient-based standards for school lunches in secondary schools.

This Department does not collect information on the number of school lunches served annually. However, the National Audit Office report, 'Smarter food procurement in the public sector', published in March 2006, stated that the number of meals served annually was 617 million.

The School Food Trust (SFT) recently published its second annual survey of take-up of school meals in England. This showed that, between 2005-06 and 2006-07, school lunch take-up fell by one percentage point in primary schools (from 42.3 per cent. to 41.3 per cent.) and by five percentage points in secondary schools (from 42.7 per cent. to 37.7 per cent.).

The SFT has a target to increase take-up of school lunches, from the 2008-06 baseline, by four percentage points by March 2008; and by 10 percentage points by the end of 2009.

Increasing take-up of school lunches is a priority for my Department and for the SFT.

Schools

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been opened since 1997, broken down by local education authority. [154450]

Jim Knight: The number of maintained mainstream schools opened in since 1997, broken down by local authority, is given in the following table.

New schools can be established for a number of reasons including: to meet population growth; to replace schools that are amalgamating; as a Fresh Start school to replace a school in special measures; as a school with a religious character to replace a school without a religious character; or as part of another type of local reorganisation.

It was not mandatory to supply school opening dates prior to January 2002 and therefore the figures for these years may not be complete.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Open date Grand total
Barking and Dagenham	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Barnet	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	2	2	1	2	12
Barnsley	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	13
Bath and North East Somerset	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	5
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Bexley	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	2	—	—	—	8
Birmingham	1	2	4	5	2	1	7	9	3	3	—	37
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	4
Blackpool	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	5
Bolton	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	1	1	8
Bournemouth	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	4
Bracknell Forest	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	4
Bradford	1	—	—	12	2	—	1	—	3	1	1	21
Brent	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	7
Brighton and Hove	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Bristol City of	—	9	3	3	—	—	1	—	—	9	2	27
Bromley	—	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	6
Buckinghamshire	—	—	3	—	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	8
Bury	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	5
Calderdale	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3
Cambridgeshire	—	—	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	4	18
Camden	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cheshire	1	2	2	2	1	—	3	1	4	—	11	27
Cornwall	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	7
Coventry	1	—	1	—	—	4	2	—	1	—	—	9
Croydon	1	1	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	3	11
Cumbria	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	—	—	14
Darlington	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	7
Derby	1	1	3	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	10
Derbyshire	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	2	9
Devon	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	5	—	1	11
Doncaster	1	—	—	—	1	3	3	1	1	—	—	10
Dorset	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	1	1	2	9
Durham	—	2	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	5	3	15
Ealing	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	4
East Riding of Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	4	9
East Sussex	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Enfield	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	7
Essex	3	2	2	8	6	4	4	3	1	1	3	37
Gateshead	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6
Gloucestershire	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	1	1	14
Greenwich	2	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	1	—	1	10
Hackney	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	3	1	1	11
Halton	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	4
Hampshire	1	—	—	—	4	1	—	1	1	1	1	10
Haringey	1	2	4	4	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	15
Harrow	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4
Hartlepool	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Havering	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Open date Grand total
Herefordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Hertfordshire	—	2	3	3	2	1	2	1	4	4	1	23
Hillingdon	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	9
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
Isle of Wight	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Isles of Scilly	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Islington	2	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	9
Kent	4	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	4	3	19	46
Kingston upon Hull City of	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Kirklees	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Knowsley	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Lambeth	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	1	8
Lancashire	1	1	1	—	1	3	—	2	1	9	—	19
Leeds	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	9	3	3	2	20
Leicester	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	3	10
Leicestershire	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lewisham	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	5
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	4
Liverpool	5	7	3	1	5	7	8	4	1	1	1	41
Luton	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	8
Manchester	1	1	9	2	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	18
Medway	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	7
Merton	—	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	2	—	8
Middlesbrough	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	8
Milton Keynes	2	—	3	2	4	—	2	4	4	—	1	22
Newcastle upon Tyne	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Newham	—	1	3	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	10
Norfolk	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	15	19
North East Lincolnshire	—	—	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	8	14
North Lincolnshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	5
North Somerset	1	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	7
North Tyneside	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Northamptonshire	2	—	1	1	1	4	—	7	3	1	—	20
Northumberland	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	2	—	8
Nottingham	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	4	—	4	12
Nottinghamshire	—	—	2	2	24	3	2	3	1	3	3	43
Oldham	—	1	—	—	1	3	1	1	—	—	1	8
Oxfordshire	—	—	1	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	2	9
Peterborough	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	3	9
Plymouth	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	6
Poole	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
Portsmouth	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Reading	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Redbridge	1	2	2	1	11	—	—	—	—	1	2	20
Redcar and Cleveland	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1	2	2	—	10
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Rochdale	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	6
Rotherham	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Salford	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	8
Sandwell	4	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	18
Sefton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	1	8
Sheffield	—	1	—	2	—	2	3	—	—	5	1	14
Shropshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Slough	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	6
Solihull	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	5
Somerset	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
South Gloucestershire	—	—	5	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	3	13

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Open date Grand total
South Tyneside	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	1	1	9
Southampton	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	6
Southend-on-Sea	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	2	1	1	8
Southwark	2	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	1	2	3	13
St. Helens	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Staffordshire	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	2	3	2	—	11
Stockport	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	1	9
Stockton-on-Tees	—	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	14
Stoke-on-Trent	1	—	—	2	1	1	1	2	1	—	—	9
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	8
Sunderland	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	1	—	1	—	8
Surrey	1	—	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	15
Sutton	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Swindon	—	1	5	4	1	—	1	2	—	3	4	21
Tameside	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	4
Telford and Wrekin	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	3	4	2	14
Thurrock	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	2	—	7
Torbay	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Tower Hamlets	—	1	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	7
Trafford	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Wakefield	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	1	8
Walsall	—	2	3	2	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	13
Waltham Forest	—	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	3	1	10
Wandsworth	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	5
Warrington	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	1	7
Warwickshire	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	1	7
West Berkshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4
West Sussex	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	8	—	2	—	17
Westminster	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Wigan	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	4
Wiltshire	2	1	—	1	2	2	2	—	2	4	2	18
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wirral	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4
Wokingham	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	4
Wolverhampton	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Worcestershire	—	1	—	1	6	—	—	1	1	2	31	43
York	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	7
Grand total	76	86	133	124	153	118	126	129	128	138	197	1,408

Source:
EduBase

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he has changed his policy on the promotion of parental choice in relation to schools; and if he will make a statement; [154611]

(2) what his policy is on greater diversity of school choice for parents and pupils; and if he will make a statement. [154713]

Jim Knight: We encourage every parent to take an active and informed role in their child's education and choice and diversity is a key driver behind our overarching aim of raising standards. Our policy is to give parents and children a genuine choice between schools that provide a good standard of education and offer a unique ethos and curriculum, so that every child can find a school place in which they are happy and can flourish.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated for a nationwide summer residential programme for school students in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [153955]

Jim Knight: The Department has provided no funding for a nationwide summer residential programme in 2007. However, the Department has worked with the Big Lottery Fund in delivering its 'Do it 4 Real' summer residential programme since 2003. The Big Lottery Fund allocated £5 million for 'Do it 4 Real' in 2007. From 2008-11, my Department will make a further £15 million available to expand residential activities, building on the success of 'Do it 4 Real'.

Taking part in residential activity programmes, which take young people out of their immediate surroundings, can provide opportunities for young

people to mix with peers from different backgrounds, helping them to understand and appreciate cultural differences, and develop new interests, ambitions and aspirations. In expanding the availability of residential opportunities, building on the success of 'Do it 4 Real', the Government will focus on creating subsidised opportunities for young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to mix with a wide range of peers.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the share of national income spent on education from 2005 levels over the period 2007 to 2011; and if he will make a statement. [153956]

Kevin Brennan: The Government will increase spending in education as a proportion of GDP from 5.4 per cent. in 2005-06 to 5.6 per cent. in 2010-11. This compares to 4.7 per cent. of GDP spent on education in 1996-97. The exact figures for 2005-06 to 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

The table also shows total spend on UK education spend by the Government.

UK Government education spend

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total Government education spend as a proportion of GDP	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Total UK education spend by Government (£ billion)	67.1	71.5	77.4	81.1	84.8	90

Following machinery of government changes, education spend on post-19 further education and skills and higher education is the responsibility of DIUS. My Department will continue to work closely with DIUS in relation to post-19 and higher education spending.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of whether all the incentives created by the 5 per cent. levy on school budget surpluses are in line with the objectives of that policy; and if he will make a statement; [156274]

(2) what provisional costing he has made in relation to the redistribution of funding through the 5 per cent. levy on school budget surpluses; [156275]

(3) how many schools he expects to be liable for the 5 per cent. levy on school budget surpluses. [156278]

Jim Knight: The Government are taking action to reduce the total level of school balances which stood at £1.6 billion nationally at the end of the financial year 2005-06. We believe it right to ensure that some of this money is used to support the education of today's pupils. We propose therefore to require local authorities to redistribute locally 5 per cent. of all positive revenue balances which, on the basis of 2005-06 figures, would apply to around 20,500 or 90.4 per cent. of all schools. That will encourage these schools to think carefully about the level of their balances and to plan ahead for their use.

It will be for each local authority in consultation with its Schools Forum to decide how the redistribution will work in their area. Because the redistribution takes place within a local authority it will reward those schools who budget prudently for a small surplus at the end of each financial year, at the expense of those schools who maintain consistently high balances. As the resources will be redistributed there is no overall cost to the school system from this measure and we estimate that a 5 percent. annual redistribution would release around £75 million a year for wider use within schools.

Schools: Inspections

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* duration and *(b)* cost of an Ofsted inspection of a (i) primary and (ii) secondary school was in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [154782]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 September 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The cost of an inspection is derived from the published inspection tariff, which is closely related to the size of the school. Inspector days are allocated to a school according to the following formula:

Number of pupils on roll	*Inspector days in school*
0-50	1
50-150	2
150-250	4
250-400	5
400-600	6
600-800	7
800-1,100	8
1,100-1,400	9
1,400+	10

No inspection involves inspectors being in a school for more than two days. Most inspections involve two days in school, except for very small schools. However the total cost of each inspection includes two extra days for the lead inspector to prepare and write up the inspection. Costs also include the administration of the inspection and quality assurance processes. As a result, the costs of inspection vary according to the size of the school. Some examples are:

A typical primary school of 241 pupils, with an inspection led by an additional inspector and the report quality assured by HMI, would be £6,018.

An inspection of a large primary school of 321 pupils, led by an HMI, would cost in the region of £8.704.

Most secondary school inspections are led by HMI. The cost of inspecting a small secondary school of 675 pupils would be £13,067; the cost of inspecting a large school of 1,465 pupils would be £15,645.

Higher Achieving Schools

Up to 30% of all schools are now considered for a reduced tariff inspection (RTI). These are schools which meet pre-defined criteria indicating that they are likely to be good or outstanding overall. In these inspections, one or two inspectors generally spend only one day in school though the inspections still require the two additional days for preparation and writing up of the report.

The tariff for each inspection is as follows:

	Inspector days in school
1-899 pupils on roll	1
900+ pupils on roll	2
Split-site school	2
Unit for pupils with special educational needs	2

An RTI inspection in a typical primary school with 259 pupils would cost approximately £3,376 including quality assurance by an HMI. Most of these inspections in primary schools cost between £3,300 and £3,800.

The majority of reduced tariff inspections in secondary schools cost between £4,000 and £5,000. These figures are based on costs in the current financial year 2007/08.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been placed in special measures since 1996; and how many of these have been in special measures for *(a)* less than one year, *(b)* more than one year, *(c)* more than two years, *(d)* more than three years, *(e)* more than four years, *(f)* more than five years and *(g)* more than six years. [150681]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 25 September 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The numbers of schools placed in special measures from 1996-97 to 2005-06 are shown in the following table. The table also shows the length of time that schools made subject to special measures in each year remained in the category. The data are based on academic years.

Number of schools[1] placed in, and removed from, special measures between 1996-97and 2005-06[2], and those that closed while in this category

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Total*
Number of schools placed in special measures	214	291	194	230	137	129	160	213	103	164	1,835
Number of schools that had been in special measures for:											
less than one year	—	2	2	4	2	2	3	5	2	10	32
more than one year	187	249	168	210	114	112	135	182	91	71	1,519
more than two years	93	109	72	91	47	40	40	52	11	—	555
more than three years	14	18	12	24	4	5	5	—	—	—	82
more than four years	2	5	4	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	20
more than five years	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
more than six years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Number of schools that closed while in special measures	27	40	24	16	21	15	22	26	7	16	214
Number of schools still in special measures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	67	70

[1] This figure includes nursery schools primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and pupil referral units. Of the total number of schools in the table, 54 have been in special measures more than once. [2] Details of the number of schools placed in special measures in 2006-07 will be published by Ofsted on 28 September 2007.

In 2005-06, a new inspection framework was introduced. Under the new arrangements, schools are inspected every three years rather than every six years, as was formerly the case. More schools are therefore inspected each year and the increase in the number of schools made subject to special measures in 2005-06 should be viewed in the light of this information.

Under the section 10 inspection framework, which was in operation before September 2005, schools in special measures

were monitored on a termly basis by HMI until they were judged to be providing a satisfactory standard of education. At that stage, Ofsted removed them from the category and published an inspection report. Some remained in special measures for three years or, in a minority of cases, for even longer periods. Ofsted has no power to close such schools but informs the Department for Children, Schools and Families, as well as the relevant local authority, of the progress of all schools in special measures. Since September 2005, Ofsted has continued to monitor the progress of schools in special measures and has reinspected those which have been in the category for two years or more. A few schools have remained in special measures following these inspections.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in special measures in each reporting period since 2003 had come from serious weakness or requiring significant improvement categorisation; and if he will make a statement. [150683]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The following table shows the number and proportion of schools that have moved from the serious weaknesses and significant improvement categories to special measures. The significant improvement category was introduced on 1 September 2005 as part of the revised Ofsted inspection framework. No schools were newly placed into the serious weaknesses category after this date.

Academic year	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Number of schools placed in special measures from the serious weaknesses category	51	20	9	2
Number of schools removed from the serious weaknesses category (including closures)	215	142	167	106
Percentage of schools removed from the serious weaknesses category placed in special measures	23.0	14.0	5.0	2.0
Number of schools placed in special measures from the significant improvement category	n/a	n/a	n/a	9
Number of schools removed from the significant improvement category (including closures)	n/a	n/a	n/a	276
Percentage of schools removed from the significant improvement category placed in special measures	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.0

The number and proportion of schools moving from the serious weaknesses category to special measures has reduced considerably since 2003. Ofsted have reinspected the majority of schools that were placed in the significant improvement category during 2005-06 and over 90 per cent. have now been judged to be providing a satisfactory standard of education. The trends in the table suggest that local authorities are increasingly able to prevent such schools falling into more serious failure represented by special measures.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in special measures have been in such a category for over two years, broken down by date of special measures declaration. [150684]

Jim Knight: The following table lists the schools that have been in special measures for more than two years. It also shows the schools' unique reference number, the relevant local authority and the date of the inspection when the school was placed in special measures. The list reflects the position on 1 October 2007.

URN	*School name*	*Local authority*	*Date of inspection*
107228	Usher Street Primary School and Nursery	Bradford	10 July 2003[1]
125272	Thomas Knyvet College (previously Ash Technology College)	Surrey	3 March 2005
107774	Birkdale High School	Kirklees	30 June 2005
117781	Berkeley Junior School	North Lincolnshire	7 July 2005

[1] Re-inspected November 2005

These schools represent only 1.6 per cent. of the schools currently in special measures and 0.02 per cent. of all schools. On average schools are spending less time in this Ofsted category. For example, primary schools are now spending an average of 16 months in special measures compared to 23 months in 1997. The equivalent figures for secondary show a reduction from 28 to 22 months.

Building on this progress, the Department's reforms to tackle failing schools in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 demand radical action from the school and local authority with a clear expectation that schools are turned around rapidly.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the relationship between school standards and structural reforms; and if he will make a statement. [154757]

Jim Knight: Raising standards in education and narrowing the attainment gap are key priorities for the Department. Structural reforms, whether through changes in schools governance, partnering schools with

business, HE or FE stakeholders, or greater collaboration between schools, can have an important role to play in tackling those priorities. Please refer to my reply dated 16 July 2007 PQ 149939, which provides more details about the links between structural reforms and school standards.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consideration was given to the teaching of lessons in *(a)* child care and *(b)* parenting skills in the development of the new curriculum for secondary schools. [151512]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* There has always been scope for including lessons on child care and parenting skills within Personal, Social and Health Education and this remains true in the new curriculum for secondary schools.

For example, discussion of the roles and responsibilities of parents, carers and children in families is included in aspects of both the Personal Well Being and Citizenship programmes of study. In addition, some schools also offer child care and health and social care qualifications to their 14-16 year olds. In 2005-06, 28,816 Key Stage 4 pupils were entered for GCSE examinations in these subjects.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority classifies the new secondary curriculum as *(a)* outcomes-based and *(b)* child-centred. [154335]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority classifies the new secondary curriculum as being the fundamental body of knowledge, skills and understanding to which every pupil has a statutory entitlement up to age 16.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families where the programmes of study for the new secondary curriculum reject *(a)* constructivism, *(b)* whole language teaching and *(c)* fuzzy maths as stated by the Chief Executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in his speech on the launch of the new secondary curriculum. [154340]

Jim Knight: The new secondary curriculum programmes of study set out the minimum subject content which must be taught to all pupils. No programme of study makes mention of constructivism. No programme of study requires whole language leaching. No programme of study requires the teaching of fuzzy mathematics.

Schools will continue to decide how they organise their curriculum, lessons and timetable to meet the requirements of the national curriculum.

Secondary Education: Science

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what experiments were banned in science lessons in secondary schools in each year since 1997. [153829]

Jim Knight: The science curriculum programmes of study do not list which experiments can and cannot be taught in the classroom. There is however legislation that restricts the kinds of experiments that can be undertaken. For example, under the Specified Risk Material (Amendment) Regulations 1997 bulls' eyes can only be taken from cattle of six months or younger; and under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1988 (amended 1992 and 2002), benzene and genuine crude oil are banned nationally. The Consortium of Local Education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services publishes tables of materials which schools can and cannot use in science, and suggests appropriate alternatives. Further information on this can be accessed on the CLEAPSS website at:

http://www.cleapss.org.uk.

Secondary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in secondary schools were taught in classes with *(a)* streaming and *(b)* setting in each year since 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [153953]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 6 August 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Although I am unable to answer the particular question you have raised, I have set out in the following tables the data Ofsted has on the proportion of observed lessons in secondary schools from September 1996 to August 2007 which were taught in setted/streamed classes

The data are based on the use of streaming and setting in lessons observed during inspection. Some explanation of these figures may be helpful. Before September 2005, inspectors were usually informed about how classes were organised by means of pre-inspection documentation, discussion with headteachers or teachers' schemes of work or lesson plans. Under the inspection arrangements at that time, all full-time teachers were observed by inspectors. Since September 2005, the recording of class organisation has been based either on discussions with the headteacher or teacher by reference to the lesson plan at the time of observation. A much smaller number of lessons are observed than would have been seen under the previous inspection framework. Lessons seen may therefore not represent pupil grouping in the school as a whole.

From 2003-04 the distinction between streaming and setting was removed and instead data recorded on whether the class was mixed ability or setted/streamed.

Physical education classes have been excluded from the analyses as these are not usually setted for ability in the subject

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

September 1996 to August 1997

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Year 7	25,307	7	18
Year 8	25,263	8	33
Year 9	25,179	8	40

September 1996 to August 1997

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Year 10	22,758	4	42
Year 7 to 11	35,439	4	38
Total 7 to 11	133,946	6	34

September 1997 to August 1998

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Year 7	15,080	1	22
Year 8	15,016	10	35
Year 9	15,434	10	43
Year 10	15,690	5	41
Year 11	16,336	5	41
Total 7 to 11	77,556	8	37

September 1998 to August 1999

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Year 7	20,585	5	21
Year 8	20,057	6	38
Year 9	21,739	7	45
Year 10	22,483	4	41
Year 11	22,663	4	42
Year 7 to 11	107,527	5	38

September 1999 to August 2000

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Year 7	16,145	5	21
Year 8	15,443	6	37
Year 9	17,457	6	43
Year 10	16,977	3	41
Year 11	17,143	3	42

September 1999 to August 2000

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Total 7 to 11	83,165	5	37

September 2000 to August 2001

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Year 7	12,929	5	26
Year 8	12,391	6	43
Year 9	14,995	7	48
Year 10	13,622	4	44
Year 11	14,027	3	45
Total 7 to 11	67,964	5	42

September 2001 to August 2002

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Year 7	11,613	5	27
Year 8	10,643	5	40
Year 9	13,392	6	46
Year 10	12,109	3	41
Year 11	12,796	2	43
Total 7 to 11	60,553	4	40

September 2002 to August 2003

	All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	*Percentage banded*	*Percentage setted*
Year 7	10,406	5	29
Year 8	9,482	6	41
Year 9	12,259	6	45
Year 10	11,064	3	40
Year 11	12,060	3	42
Total 7 to 11	55,271	4	40

September 2003 to August 2004

	All (excluding PE)			
	Total lessons	*Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the average ability range within the school*	*Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the lower ability range within the school*	*Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the upper ability range within the school*
Year 7	12,371	7	11	10
Year 8	11,136	10	15	14
Year 9	14,747	11	15	18
Year 10	12,874	9	13	14
Year 11	14,756	9	13	17
Total 7 to 11	65,884	9	13	15

September 2004 to August 2005

All (excluding PE)

	Total lessons	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the average ability range within the school	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the lower ability range within the school	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the upper ability range within the school
Year 7	9,351	6	10	9
Year 8	8,320	10	14	15
Year 9	11,572	11	15	18
Year 10	10,125	8	12	14
Year 11	11,897	9	12	15
Year 7 to 11	51,245	9	13	14

September 2005 to August 2006

All (excluding PE)

	Total lessons	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the average ability range within the school	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the lower ability range within the school	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the upper ability range within the school
Year 7	3,794	8	13	12
Year 8	3,679	11	15	16
Year 9	4,304	13	17	19
Year 10	4,387	11	16	18
Year 11	3,528	13	15	18
Total 7 to 11	19,692	11	15	17

September 2006 to August 2007[1]

All (excluding PE)

	Total lessons	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the average ability range within the school	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the lower ability range within the school	Percentage setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the upper ability range within the school
Year 7	4,152	9	14	11
Year 8	4,160	12	16	16
Year 9	4,519	14	17	20
Year 10	4,766	11	15	17
Year 11	4,110	14	15	16
Total 7 to 11	21,707	12	15	16

[1] These figures are provisional as some data may be missing due to a time lag between the actual inspection and the data entering our database.

Specialist Diplomas: Engineering

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools he estimates will offer *(a)* the level three engineering diploma and *(b)* the full range of additional and specialist learning within the level three engineering diploma. [155066]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* By 2013, all schools will be required to offer access to the engineering diploma as part of the new entitlement to all 14 diploma lines, this will include access to the full range of additional and specialist learning, where appropriate. From September 2008, 38 consortia (groups of schools, colleges and work based learning providers) have been approved to offer an estimated 1,500 young people the Advanced Diploma (level 3) in Engineering.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the additional and specialist learning options within the level three diploma in engineering. [155067]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Additional and specialist learning for all diplomas offers a range of vocational and general qualifications to support choice and progression into higher education or employment. In determining the additional and specialist learning options within the level 3 diploma in engineering, the Diploma Development Partnership, awarding bodies and QCA are working very closely with higher education institutions and employers to ensure clear progression routes for young people.

Physics, Modern Foreign Languages, Electronics, Advertising or Multi-media Software Skills are all examples of some of the choices available for young people studying the Engineering Diploma at level 3. Full details are set out in the Diploma Additional and Specialist Learning Catalogue which is available on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that the level three diploma in engineering complies with entry requirements for university engineering courses. [155068]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The level 3 diploma in engineering has been developed in full consultation with higher education institutions,

professional institutions, leading employer representatives and major awarding bodies. Students successfully completing this Engineering Diploma will be well prepared for entry into higher education.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust: Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps are being taken to improve co-operation between academies and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust; and what assessment he has made of those levels of co-operation. [153830]

Jim Knight: The Department has no evidence of lack of co-operation between academies and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT), and we receive many positive endorsements of the support given by the SSAT from academies.

Recent reports by the National Audit Office and PricewaterhouseCoopers have commented favourably on the support given to academies by the SSAT.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust: Information Officers

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press officers are employed by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. [154467]

Jim Knight: The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust is an independent company with charitable status. The Department does not therefore collect information about the detailed composition of its work force.

Sports: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of curriculum time was devoted to *(a)* sport, *(b)* art, *(c)* music and *(d)* languages in secondary schools in each year since 1997. [153952]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information. It is for schools to decide how much curriculum time to devote to each subject in order to fulfil the requirements of the national curriculum.

Information on the amount of time secondary schools in England devoted to physical education in 2006-07 will be available next month.

Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers are qualified to teach *(a)* Mandarin and *(b)* Urdu; [153820]

(2) how many children were on the Child Protection Register in each local authority area in England in each year since 1985-86; and if he will make a statement; [153940]

(3) what proportion of the teaching workforce was aged over *(a)* 40, *(b)* 50, *(c)* 55 and *(d)* 60 years in each year since 1990-91; [153943]

(4) what proportion of newly qualified teachers left the profession in each year since 1990-91 to 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [153944]

(5) what *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of head teacher posts were vacant in each reporting period since 1996-97; [153947]

(6) which 10 local authorities had the highest vacancy rates for *(a)* teachers and *(b)* head teachers in each year since 1996-97 to 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [153948]

(7) what proportion of new *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers had a degree level qualification in each year since 1996-97 to 2006-07; [153949]

(8) what proportion of school classroom assistants have no GCSE qualifications; and if he will make a statement; [153950]

(9) what proportion of teachers in secondary schools were on long-term sick leave in each year since 1985-86 to 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [153951]

(10) what number and proportion of children in care were educated in state boarding schools in each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07: and if he will make a statement; [153954]

(11) how many pupils there were in *(a)* pupil referral units and *(b)* other out-of-school units in each year from 1996 to 2007; and if he will make a statement; [153969]

(12) what proportion of teachers were *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time, *(c)* occasional, *(d)* unqualified and *(e)* on employment-based routes for each year group and for each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07; and what the equivalent expected figures are for 2007-08; [154003]

(13) how many unqualified teachers taught in state-funded schools in each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07; how many are expected to teach in such schools in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [154004]

(14) how many pupils in secondary schools were taught by a teacher without specialist educational qualifications in the subject being taught in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* mathematics, *(d)* modern foreign languages, *(e)* technology and *(f)* music in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [154005]

(15) what his latest estimates are of the pupil-teacher ratios in *(a)* all secondary schools and *(b)* academies; and if he will make a statement. [154006]

Jim Knight: The information requested is either not available or can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on school workforce has been published in SFR15/2007: "School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Provisional)", which was released on 26 April 2007, This is available on the Department's website via the following link: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000725/index.shtml and is also available in the Library. This is an annual publication, which includes tables for January 1997 to 2007 on teacher numbers, support staff numbers, teacher vacancies, pupil: teacher ratios (PTRs) and pupil: adult ratios (PARs), teacher ethnicity and teacher sickness absence.

Information from School Census has been published in SFR 16/2007: "Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England, January 2007 (Provisional)", which was released on 26 April 2007. This is available on the Department's website via the following link: http://www.dfes.gov.uk./rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000726/index.shtml and is also available in the Library. This Statistical First Release (SFR) is based upon information collected in the 2007 School Census. It reports provisional findings for the number of pupils by age, gender, free school meal eligibility, ethnicity, first language and SEN (special education needs) together with a range of class size information. Information on Pupil Referral Units can be found in tables 7 and 8.

Information on looked after children has been published in volume: Vweb01 72007: "Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2006", which was released on 29 March 2007. This is available on the Department's website via the following link: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000721/index.shtml. This statistical volume provides statistics on children looked after by local authorities. It includes details on overall numbers of looked after children at 31 March, the number of children adopted in 2005-06, the number and qualifications achieved by care leavers in 2005-06 aged 16 and over, the activity of 19-year-old former care leavers, the number of looked after girls who are mothers, information on the distance between home and placement and the method of participation used during the statutory reviews. National table E contains information on the number of looked after children in residential schools.

Information on children on Child Protection Registers can be found in SFR45/2006: "Referrals, Assessments, and Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers, England—year ending 31 March 2006", which was published on 16 November 2006. This is available on the Department's website via the following link: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000692/index.shtml and is also available in the Library.

Teachers: Assessments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 126W, on teachers: assessments (1) what the unit cost per test taken was in each financial year since 1999-2000; [153573]

(2) how many of those who successfully passed each test in each year passed on their first attempt; [153574]

(3) what the highest number of attempts needed was for any successful student to pass *(a)* in each year and *(b)* for each test; [153575]

(4) to which part of key stage 4 of the national curriculum the qualified teacher status skills tests equate. [154103]

Jim Knight: The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) holds data on the number of skills tests attempted by teacher trainees who successfully passed the tests but not on those taken by trainees who have attempted but have not successfully passed the tests. The available data is collected on an academic, rather than financial year, basis.

	Approximate total number of tests sat by those who passed, by academic year	*Approximate total cost of running the tests for year, by financial year*	*Approximate unit cost per test taken by those who passed their tests*
2000/01	55,854	5,245,000	93.91
2001/02	94,821	5,972,000	62.98
2002/03	113,044	4,132,000	36.55
2003/04	121,390	5,349,000	44.06
2004/05	142,654	4,722,000	33.10
2005/06	136,559	4,262,000	31.21

The unit cost is higher in the early years because, while fewer trainees sat the tests, the development costs of the scheme are reflected in them.

The following table shows the number of candidates who passed individual skills tests on their first attempt. This, and further information, is available publicly on the TDA website.

Number of candidates who passed individual QTS skills tests on their first attempt

	2000/01	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Numeracy	18,948	22,519	24,744	27,341	26,964	26,964
Literacy	21,037	22,468	25,353	28,864	26,930	27,438
ICT	n/a	23,410	22,765	29,002	25,191	31,418

The 2005/06 cohort data can be found at http://www.tda.gov.uk/partners/datasurveys/skillstestsresults.aspx.

The 2000/01 to 2004/05 cohort data can be found at http://www.tda.gov.uk/partners/datasurveys/skillstestsresults.archive.aspx

The following table shows the highest number of attempts needed by some candidates to pass in each year and for each test. Data prior to 2001 are not available.

Highest number of attempts needed for a successful candidate to pass in each year and in each test

	Numeracy	*Literacy*	*ICT*
2001	26	19	8
2002	24	18	25
2003	24	25	6
2004	23	13	15
2005	28	20	13
2006	28	19	9

The skills tests are broadly consistent with grade C at key stage 4 of the national curriculum but do not equate to any specific part of it.

Teachers: Elderly

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers over the age of 50 years were awarded full-time teaching contracts in the *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school sector in (i) Leeds and (ii) West Yorkshire in each of the last three years. [154861]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information is not available in the format requested. There are however estimates available which give the

number of full-time regular appointments. This information is available at the Government office region level only.

The following table shows the number of teachers aged 50 or over appointed to full-time regular posts in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in the Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region and England in each year from 2002-03 to 2004-05, the latest year for which information is available.

Qualified teachers aged 50[1] or over taking up full-time regular appointments in local authority maintained schools in the Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region and England

	2002-03		2003-04[2]		2004-05[2]	
Nursery/Primary	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*England*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*England*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*England*
Entrants[3]	120	1,280	90	1,200	100	1,240
Movements[4]	190	2,100	210	2,300	230	2,060
Total appointments	310	3,370	300	3,500	330	3,300
Secondary						
Entrants[3]	160	1,940	150	1,810	150	1,770
Movements[4]	210	2,560	200	2,340	190	2,050
Total appointments	370	4,500	360	4,150	350	3,820

[1] Teachers aged 50 or over by the end of the year in which appointed.
[2] Provisional.
[3] Entrants include teachers who were not in service in the local authority maintained sector in England at the beginning of the year of appointment.
[4] Includes teachers who were in service in the local authority maintained sector in England at the beginning of the year who had taken up an appointment in a different school by the end of the year.
Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and consequently totals may not always equal the sum of the component parts.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Mandarin and Urdu

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what level of qualification teachers will need to teach *(a)* Mandarin and *(b)* Urdu; [153821]

(2) how much is planned to be spent on training of *(a)* Mandarin and *(b)* Urdu teachers in 2007-08; [153822]

(3) what steps are being taken to recruit speakers of Mandarin and Urdu into the teaching profession; [153823]

(4) how many new teachers of *(a)* Mandarin and *(b)* Urdu are expected to be recruited over the next five years; [153824]

(5) what new languages other than Mandarin and Urdu will be available in schools under the changes to the national curriculum. [153825]

Jim Knight: The level of qualification required to teach Mandarin and Urdu will be the same as for any other modern language and teachers will normally have a post A level qualification which will be built upon as part of their training. It is not possible to state how many new teachers of a particular language there will be over the next few years or therefore what the cost of training them will be. While the Government sets the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) a target for the number of training places for modern languages as a whole, it does not specify how this should be split between individual languages. This depends on the demand from schools and local authorities for teachers of a particular language, which will then be reflected in the number of training places offered by providers.

Following the review of the key stage 3 curriculum (11 to 14-year-olds), schools will be able to offer any major European or world language from September 2008. The new key stage 3 programme of study does not stipulate what languages should be taught, although suggests schools might offer major European or world languages such as Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish and Urdu. It is a school level decision which languages they teach.

Teachers: Performance Related Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of performance-related pay on *(a)* teaching quality and *(b)* pupil attainment; and if he will make a statement. [154602]

Jim Knight: All teachers undergo an annual review of performance and this contributes to any decisions that may be made about their progression on the pay scale or spine range for their grade. From September 2007 revised performance management arrangements will apply to teachers in England. These will ensure that every year those who manage teachers and head teachers agree objectives appropriate to the individual teacher and at the end of each year the teacher's performance will be assessed against those objectives and associated performance criteria. Our aim is that career progression and financial rewards should go to those who are making the biggest contribution to improving pupil attainment, those who are continually developing their own expertise, and those who are helping to develop expertise in others.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what minimum academic qualifications are required of school *(a)* teaching assistants, *(b)* technicians, *(c)* unqualified teachers and *(d)* other school support staff. [153878]

Jim Knight: The Education (Specified Work and Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 allow for the following to be employed as unqualified teachers and undertake specified work in maintained schools or non-maintained special schools in England:

Trainee teachers undertaking employment-based initial teacher training (ITT) who have a first degree or equivalent or have completed a minimum of two years in higher education;

Until 31 August 2008, those who have successfully undertaken ITT programmes but have not been awarded qualified teacher status (QTS) because they have not passed the skills tests. They will be qualified to first degree or equivalent;

Overseas trained teachers who have successfully completed a recognised programme of ITT in their home country are allowed to teach as unqualified teachers for four years in maintained schools in England, the four-year period starting on the first day on which they first taught in a maintained school in England;

Instructors, when there is no qualified or trainee teacher available, providing they have special qualifications or experience relevant to the post; and

Teaching assistants, technicians and other support staff, for whom there are no minimum academic qualifications to work in a school, providing the head teacher is satisfied the person has the suitability, experience and ability for each post and they work under the direction and supervision of a qualified teacher.

There are no national minimum entry level qualifications for school support staff as it is for head teachers to assess the suitability and experience of individual candidates against specific posts. However, there are a range of qualifications and training routes that teaching assistants, technicians and other support staff can access once employed by a school or local authority. The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) have recently completed a review of the National Occupational Standards for teaching assistants and professional standards for Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) against which teaching assistants and HLTAs can be assessed. In addition, the TDA published a three-year strategy in 2006, "Developing people to support learning", to create a framework of standards and qualifications to enable schools to develop the potential of all support staff.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the minimum GCSE requirements to be a teacher are; what they were in each year since 1986-87; and if he will make a statement. [154002]

Jim Knight: Teachers in maintained and non-maintained special schools in England are required to have undertaken a programme of initial teacher training leading to the award of qualified teacher status (QTS). In order to enter any initial teacher training programme leading to QTS, whether undergraduate, postgraduate or employment-based, applicants must have at least a grade 'C' in GCSE English and mathematics or have reached the equivalent standard; this has been a requirement since before 1986/87.

This is in addition to the requirement to have a suitable degree qualification.

Additionally, those training to teach in primary schools will also need a GCSE grade 'C' in a science subject or to have reached the equivalent standard.

From 1 September 1998, all new entrants to primary courses who were born on or after 1 September 1979 were required to have attained a standard equivalent to a GCSE grade 'C' in a science subject. All trainees recruited to primary initial teacher training on or after 1 October 2006 must have attained a standard equivalent to a GCSE grade 'C' in a science subject regardless of their date of birth.

Teachers: Recruitment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government are taking in relation to subject areas where there are teacher shortages; and if he will make a statement. [153946]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to improving the supply of well-qualified teachers of shortage subjects and for the past few years has made financial incentives available to encourage people to train as teachers of shortage subjects. In mathematics and science we offer a training bursary of £9,000 to students taking a postgraduate certificate of education (PGCE) and, after successful completion of induction, a golden hello of £5,000. In other shortage subjects including modern languages, technology, music and religious education we offer PGCE students a bursary of £9,000 and a golden hello of £2,500.

We fund the Training and Development Agency for Schools to advertise for recruitment to particular shortage subjects, to provide help and advice telephone lines to potential teacher trainees, and to run pre-training enhancement courses in mathematics, physics and chemistry to enable people without a degree in the subject, but with post-A-level knowledge, to retrain as specialist teachers in these subjects. We have extended postgraduate teacher training courses to enable providers to offer significant chemistry, physics and mathematics subject knowledge training. The expansion of Teach First also gives high class graduates the opportunity to teach shortage subjects in challenging schools.

Teachers: Special Educational Needs

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of teachers with training in severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties. [154607]

Jim Knight: All teachers, as part of their initial teacher training and induction period, must demonstrate that they can differentiate their teaching to meet the needs of pupils, including those with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities, and know how to seek advice from those with specialist knowledge.

Once qualified, all teachers are expected to discuss their own development needs in performance management reviews, and to address development priorities. This could include strengthening knowledge and understanding of a particular area or aspect of SEN, which could of course include severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties. Such children would normally be provided for in special schools because of the complexity of their needs. It would be for those schools to ensure that staff employed to support them had the necessary knowledge, skills and experience.

All schools receive a school development grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. A wide variety of courses are available covering SEN, ranging from awareness-raising through to in-depth studies leading to specific qualifications. It is, however, a matter for individual teachers and their schools to determine their own particular training and development needs. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development of SEN.

The Department's published SEN strategy, 'Removing Barriers to Achievement', recognised the importance of training and committed us to work closely with the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to ensure that initial teacher training and programmes of continuing professional development provide a good grounding in core skills and knowledge of SEN. We have commissioned the TDA to carry forward a range of initiatives designed to improve and strengthen the SEN skills and confidence of trained, newly qualified and established teachers. These initiatives are being implemented and evaluated over the period 2005-08 at a cost of approximately £1.1 million.

Training and Development Agency for Schools: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press officers are employed by the Training and Development Agency for Schools. [154429]

Jim Knight: There are four press officers working at the Training and Development Agency for Schools.

Vocational Training: Sector Skills Councils

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on sector skills councils' targets to increase diversity. [154447]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Sector Skills Councils have the lead role at the national level to identify the skills employers need and to raise investment in skills. Each SSC is required to produce an employer-led Sector Skills Agreement setting out an action plan to increase skill levels, including an analysis of the diversity of each sector SSCs identify the factors behind the gender, age, ethnicity and disability profiles of their industries. This analysis informs SSC strategies, targets and measures to redress imbalances. SSCs also have a more direct role in encouraging employers to consider recruiting non-traditional sources of labour. For example, the Women and Work Sector Pathways initiative is testing new career and recruitment routes, helping women into sectors and occupations where they are currently under-represented.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how sector skills councils will ensure that young women who want to go into industry can gain entry to apprenticeships and skills training; and if he will make a statement. [154448]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

A quarter of a million apprentices, of whom 47 per cent. are female, are currently in learning. The number of female apprentices has steadily increased as more apprenticeships have been offered, including in more non-traditional sectors. The Learning and Skills Council has taken action to promote equality and diversity in apprenticeships, including equality-proofed promotional materials to attract apprentices from a wide range of backgrounds.

An internal review of apprenticeships is taking place to address the strategic challenges of delivering the entitlement to an apprenticeship place for every suitably qualified young person by 2013 and of reaching 400,000 apprenticeships in England by 2020. The review will also address the equality and diversity challenges for apprenticeships set out in recent reports from the Equal Opportunities Commission, Women at Work Commission and the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs. The review concludes in November.

Young People: Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to bring forward proposals to levy fines on 17 and 18-year-olds who are not in education or training; and if he will make a statement. [154527]

Jim Knight: In the Green Paper "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16" we proposed that, if a young person continued to refuse to participate in education or training, despite the efforts of providers and the local authority to help and support them onto a programme of learning, they could be issued with a new type of civil Order called an Attendance Order. We proposed two options for ensuring that if Attendance Orders are made they are followed: that criminal sanctions could be pursued if the terms of an Attendance Order are breached, or that civil / administrative sanctions could be pursued. We intend to publish further proposals in the autumn.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to bring forward proposals to use criminal sanctions against *(a)* parents and *(b)* children who do not stay in education in the future to age 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [154538]

Jim Knight: We said in the Green Paper "Raising Expectations", on raising the participation age that we would expect parents to encourage and facilitate their child's participation, and that if there is evidence that a parent of a young person is helping them break the law it should be possible to hold them accountable as well. We are considering what appropriate sanctions would be in order to do this effectively. We proposed that if a young person continued to refuse to participate in education or training, despite the efforts of providers and the local authority to help and support them onto a programme of learning, they could be issued with a new type of civil Order called an Attendance Order. This would be initiated by the local authority. We proposed two options for ensuring that if Attendance Orders are made they are followed: that criminal sanctions or civil/administrative sanctions.

These proposals can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/6965-DfES-Raising%20Expectations%20Green%20Paper.pdf

We intend to publish further proposals in the autumn.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to bring forward proposals to withhold driving licences from people below the age of 18 years who do not participate in education or training; and if he will make a statement. [154541]

Jim Knight: We said in the Green Paper 'Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16' that some other countries have withheld driving licenses from young people not participating in education or training and that we would explore whether they may be similar incentives that could work in this country. I will set out more detailed plans in relation to raising the participation age later in the autumn.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sanctions he plans for children over the age of 16 who fail to attend school or take up training should the education leaving age be raised to 18; and if he will make a statement. [154759]

Jim Knight: In the Green Paper "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training /post-16" we proposed that, if a young person continued to refuse to participate in education or training, despite the efforts of providers and the local authority to help and support them onto a programme of learning, they could be issued with a new type of civil Order called an Attendance Order. The process of issuing an Attendance Order would be initiated by the local authority. We proposed two options for ensuring that if Attendance Orders are made they are followed: that criminal sanctions could be pursued if the terms of an Attendance Order are breached, or that civil/administrative sanctions could be pursued. These proposals can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/6965-DfES-Raising%20Expectations%20Green%20Paper.pdf

We intend to publish further proposals in the autumn.

Young People: Public Transport

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what means local authorities have used to finance public transport discount schemes for those aged 18 years and under; and at what cost. [153758]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not centrally held as such schemes are offered entirely at an authority's discretion based on their assessment of local need and their overall financial priorities.

Young People: Vocational Guidance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on careers advice for those under 19 years of age in each of the last 10 years. [153839]

Jim Knight: In April 2001, responsibility for providing careers advice passed from the Careers Service to the Connexions Service. Connexions provides services to 13 to 19-year-olds and to people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 24. The following table shows the amount of central Government funding allocated to the Connexions Service and the Careers Service in each of the last 10 years. Information on the amount spent on careers advice is not collected centrally. However, an independent study undertaken in 2006 concluded that, on average, around 42 per cent. of a Connexions Partnership's expenditure was on information, advice and guidance.

£ million

	Connexions Partnerships	*Careers Services*
1998-99	—	210
1999-2000	—	223
2000-01	—	233
2001-02	110	173
2002-03	337	52
2003-04	439	—
2004-05	458	—
2005-06	464	—
2006-07	466	—
2007-08	467	—

Note:
The figures reflect the staged way in which Connexions was introduced from April 2001.

Young People: Vocational Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that all 16 to 19-year-olds in employment have access to training; and if he will make a statement. [153971]

Jim Knight: The Department has a number of initiatives already in place to ensure that 16 to 19-year-olds in employment have access to training.

Government-funded apprenticeships offer the opportunity for young people to earn as they learn. There are over 200 apprenticeships designed by employers, available to 16 to 19-year-olds in 80 different sectors with 130,000 employers taking part. These apprenticeships give employees the opportunity to learn on the job and also through off the job training.

Train to Gain gives employers the opportunity to access publicly-funded support to train their low skilled workers. Whilst apprenticeships are the most appropriate route for 16 to 19-year-olds in employment, 19-year-olds are also eligible for funding through Train to Gain. 16 and 17-year-olds who are in employment, and who have not yet attained NVQ level 2 or equivalent, are entitled to reasonable paid time off during normal working hours to study or train for a qualification which will improve their future employment prospects.

The Department is also piloting Learning Agreements to help 16 and 17-year-olds in employment get back into education and training. Young people will agree personal contracts to return to education or vocational training in return for financial support.

From 2013, when all young people are required to continue in education or training until the age of 18, we are proposing that where employers are employing a 16 or 17-year-old for more than 20 hours a week and are not providing or arranging accredited training for them, the employer will be required to release the young person from work for a day a week to attend training elsewhere. Where employers want to offer training themselves, we will encourage and support them to do so. We will work with employers to seek flexible and low burden ways for them to get existing good quality training accredited.

Engagement in learning, and educational attainment, are critical if young people are to achieve good outcomes, and fulfil their potential. Our 14 to 19 reforms will ensure that all young people have the opportunity to choose a learning pathway which suits them and which can be the basis for progression to further learning, higher education and employment. This is essential if our young people are to have the skills they need to compete in our increasingly global economy.

And our initiatives are having an effect. The number of 16 to 18-year-olds participating in education and training increased to 1.55 million at the end of 2006, the highest number ever. And, the percentage of 19-year-olds achieving at least level 2 was 71.4 in 2006. This is an increase of 5.1 percentage points since 2004.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 9 October 2007

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many press officers are employed by the National Audit Office. [154218]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office employs one head of press office and three press officers.

JUSTICE

House of Lords: Reform

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on proposals for legislative reform of the House of Lords. [156074]

Mr. Straw: I outlined the Government plans on the immediate next steps on House of Lords reform in my statement on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 449. I hope to be able to publish a further White Paper around the turn of the year, with the aim of producing draft clauses that would form elements of the final draft Bill. My intention through the work of the cross-party working group on Lords reform is to formulate a comprehensive reform package that we would put to the electorate as a manifesto commitment at the next general election. All proposals have been and will continue to be the subject to clearance with Cabinet colleagues in the normal way.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many press officers are employed by the Electoral Commission. [154162]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it employs three media relations officers and a media relations manager.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

School Visits

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will consider making funding available for school visits to the Houses of Parliament. [156076]

Nick Harvey: In its report on Improving Facilities for Educational Visitors to Parliament in April this year the Administration Committee recommended that consideration should be given to subsidising school visits to Westminster from more remote constituencies. The Commission is interested in this possibility and the Administration Committee has agreed to the introduction of a pilot scheme to assess the merits of alternative approaches. The pilot is planned to take place early in the next financial year.

Members: Proof of Identity

John Battle: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many hon. Members' staff passes were valid on the dates of 1 July *(a)* 1987, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2007. [152165]

Nick Harvey: The earliest information on Members' staff passes is from 1998 and then each year from 2002 to 2007. The numbers show a 16 per cent. increase since 1998 and a 10 per cent. increase since 2002.

	Number
1998	1,344
2002	1,421
2003	1,459
2004	1,427
2005	1,400
2006	1,565
2007	1,558

John Battle: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many House of Commons Press Gallery passes were valid on the dates of 1 July *(a)* 1987, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2007. [152166]

Nick Harvey: The number of media passes now is broadly the same as in 2002 (the earliest year we have information available), although there was a drop in years 2004-06.

	Number
2002	445
2003	459
2004	431
2005	408
2006	420
2007	442

Refreshment Department: Consultants

Janet Anderson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost will be to the House of Commons Refreshment Department of the research being undertaken by the Russell Partnership. [153627]

Nick Harvey: The Russell Partnership is currently undertaking two research projects for the House of Commons Refreshment Department:

an operational and financial benchmarking review of catering and retail services; and,

customer research to provide qualitative input for the benchmarking review.

Further to my reply to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, the tendered price to interview a sample of around 35 MPs and to conduct a survey among staff of the House and Members' staff was £6,950. The cost of the benchmarking review will be up to £26,250.

Both contracts were awarded following competitive tendering exercises under the House of Commons consultancy framework agreement. The research is being carried out in response to recommendations made by the Administration Committee in their report on Refreshment Department Services (HC 733) published on 14 February 2006.

Speaker: Legal Opinion

Mr. Burns: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on the matter of legal advice recently given to the Speaker and its cost. [156789]

Nick Harvey: During July and August, the House administration endorsed the Speaker's use of the firm Carter Ruck to counteract a series of articles that were published in the media which questioned the impartiality of the Speaker in his official role. The cost of this advice was £18,696.06.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: United Nations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department has about reports that UN Development Programme (UNDP) project staff in Burma have had to pay up to two months salary to UNDP national staff to retain their jobs. [155617]

Mr. Malik: DFID has raised this matter with the UN Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP has carried out an investigation which failed to reveal any evidence to support that allegation. Subsequently, UNDP invited all its staff in Burma to complete a detailed confidential questionnaire on transparency, accountability and conflict of interest issues. UNDP is currently analysing the responses.

UNDP take incidents and allegations of misconduct extremely seriously, and continue to seek ways to ensure that transparency and accountability are a priority of their programme in Burma. UNDP has reviewed the operational procedures of their programmes and have begun to put in place additional safeguards to ensure the efficient, effective and appropriate use of resources. An internal oversight unit is now being established and a more robust grievance mechanism set up to deal with issues raised by staff, beneficiaries, various other stakeholders and the general public. A code of conduct training for all UN staff in Burma is due to begin soon, focusing on, among other things, transparency, accountability, conflict of interest, abuse of authority and harassment.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155890]

Mr. Malik: For the period 2007-08:

(i) DFID has not to date advertised or run promotional campaigns on television, and has no current plans to do so.

(ii) DFID has not to date advertised or run promotional campaigns on radio, and has no current plans to do so.

(iii) DFID has not to date run any promotional campaigns in print media, and has no current plans to do so. DFID's advertising spend is for recruitment and procurement purposes, and is estimated at £260,000.

A projected figure for the overall period cannot be supplied as budgets for promotional activities and advertising in 2008-09 have yet to be put in place, and it is yet to be determined what promotional activity or advertising will take place.

India

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he classes India as a low-income country or a middle-income country; and if he will make a statement. [155727]

Mr. Malik: DFID currently classes India as a low-income country. This is in line with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) classification, recognised and used by the international donor community.

The OECD bases its classification on the World Bank's World Development Indicators report. This currently states that India is a low-income economy because its Gross National Income (GNI) per capita was calculated as $730 in 2005, well under the $875 per capita or more that would mean graduation to middle-income country status.

India and China: Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's long-term expenditure strategy is for *(a)* India and *(b)* China; and if he will make a statement. [155726]

Mr. Malik: DFID's bilateral expenditure in India is £266 million for 2007-08.

DFID's bilateral expenditure in China is £33.4 million for 2007-08.

For future years we are awaiting the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review which will determine our long-term expenditure in both countries. However, we expect to terminate our bilateral programme in China by the end of 2011.

International Assistance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the main proposed budget headings are for the £20 million funding announced on 5 April for activities in emergency and post-crisis countries over the next five years; and how much of this funding will be provided for the first global roster for education in emergencies. [155635]

Mr. Malik: The programme of work to be covered by the £20 million announced on 5 April is currently being discussed by DFID and UNICEF. It has not yet been finalised.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to implement the UK's contribution to the new global roster for emergency humanitarian education services. [156256]

Mr. Malik: UNICEF and Save the Children Alliance (SCA) share responsibility for the provision of education in emergencies, and DFID is closely following the progress that they are making in establishing a global roster of education experts to be deployed in emergencies. DFID has provided UNICEF with £4 million per year from 2006 to 2009 to support their role in responding to emergencies, which includes building education response capacity.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the first global roster for emergency humanitarian education services announced on 5 April will be operational. [156257]

Mr. Malik: UNICEF and Save the Children Alliance (SCA), who share responsibility for education provision in emergencies, are currently working on establishing the global roster of education experts. It is too soon to say when this roster will be operational. DFID is closely monitoring progress.

Iraq: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what sectoral priorities the Government is supporting through aid in Iraq. [156354]

Mr. Malik: Iraq is a wealthy country, with Government revenues expected to be around $33 billion this year. Our priority is helping the Iraqi Government to unlock the potential of its human and financial resources to enable growth and deliver better public services to its own people. We also aim to internationalise the aid effort by leveraging a more effective role for key players such as the World Bank and IMF and we support the most vulnerable Iraqis through contributions to humanitarian agencies.

Since March 2003, the UK Government have provided £744 million for these reconstruction and development priorities in Iraq. This includes £90 million for infrastructure projects and £125 million for humanitarian agencies. Current programmes include: an Economic Reform Programme advising the Iraqi Government on macro-economic, fiscal and public financial management issues; our Support of Centre of Government programme to help build key Government institutions of central Government including the Prime Minister's office; and work through the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Basra to promote public and private investment. We are also supporting the establishment of institutions including the Basra Investment Promotion Agency and Basra Development Fund designed to promote private sector development and credit for small and medium enterprises. This work is already serving as a model for assistance elsewhere in Iraq.

Maldives: Overseas Aid

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid the Government has given to help develop the Maldives in each year since 1997. [156568]

Mr. Malik: Details of the UK's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to the Maldives since 1997 are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure on development in the Maldives 1997-98 to 2006-07

Financial year	*Bilateral expenditure (£000)*
1997-98	292
1998-99	310
1999-2000	292
2000-01	286
2001-02	83
2002-03	195
2003-04	199
2004-05	808
2005-06	405
2006-07	0

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral aid to the Maldives for 1997 to 2005

Calendar year	*Imputed aid (£000)*
1997	420
1998	368
1999	173
2000	369
2001	276
2002	347
2003	703
2004	309
2005	1,163

Peru: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial and other commitments the Government has made following the earthquake in southern Peru; and what steps he is taking to ensure that aid is received by those in need. [156296]

Mr. Malik: DFID contributed £750,000 to the Peru earthquake response to help provide sanitation and washing facilities for those affected; to assist in planning for longer-term rebuilding; and to ensure that buildings in the area are better able to withstand earthquakes. We also paid for the British leader of the

UN's disaster assessment and coordination team. Our assessment of the people affected by the earthquake showed that funding in this way was the best way for DFID to support those most in need. We will monitor progress.

The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF) has allocated US $9.6 million. The United Kingdom is the largest donor to the UN CERF, contributing 25 per cent. of its budget this year based on current calculations (the UK has provided $83.7 million of $329 million so far contributed).

The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) provided €8 million. DFID's share via ECHO was approximately £970,000—17.4 per cent.

Philippines: Overseas Aid

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the UK Government gave to the Government of the Philippines in the last year for which figures are available. [155791]

Mr. Malik: In 2006-07 the UK gave £143,000 in bilateral aid to the Government of the Philippines.

South East Asia: Overseas Aid

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid has been given to help those affected by the recent flooding in South East Asia. [156072]

Mr. Malik: DFID responded to the floods in South Asia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We did not receive requests for assistance from South East Asian states.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DFID contributed £650,000

£500,000 through WFP to provide food, clean water and safeguard people against water borne diseases.

£149,422 to Save the Children for essential health care support.

We have also offered support to the UN if required to assist with co-ordinating the relief effort.

In South Asia DFID contributed over £5 million to help the worst affected countries.

In Bangladesh we contributed £2.1 million through the Chars Livelihood Programme, United Nations Development Programme and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) to provide food, water, emergency shelter and medicines to help more than 1 million people in the worst-affected districts.

In Pakistan, we contributed £2.2 million through the Pakistani Rural Support Programme Network, the United Nations, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) providing multi-sectoral immediate relief as well as livelihoods assistance.

In India, DFID gave Save the Children £750,000 to provide general relief items, healthcare and livelihood support, children's education and protection to 13,341 families (including 31,660 children).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children's Centres: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of children's centres in targeting the most disadvantaged children and families; and if he will make a statement; [153832]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure children's centres are father friendly; and if he will make a statement; [153833]

(3) what assessment he has made of children's centres' effectiveness in working with community organisations. [153834]

Beverley Hughes: We now have over 1,400 children's centres up and running providing services to, predominantly, the most disadvantaged communities. The National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) findings on the early impact of 150 of the first Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) (November 2005) identified that of those families in the most disadvantaged areas served by SSLPs, 86 per cent. of the parents in the sample were benefiting from Sure Start. However, this evaluation also found that some of the most socially excluded groups could not be shown to be benefiting from living in a SSLP area. Although the NESS methodology could not identify whether any of the children in the sample had actually attended a Sure Start centre or not, we have taken a number of steps to ensure that the most excluded partners benefit.

In November 2005 the Department issued 'Practice Guidance' to encourage greater use of outreach and home-visiting services by children's centres to reach the most disadvantaged families, which we then updated in November 2006.

To encourage better monitoring and a more systematic approach we issued Planning and Performance Management Guidance in November 2006 which contains a framework for centres to assess their progress in reaching excluded groups in their area.

We also commissioned Together for Children (TfC) to produce a toolkit, issued in December 2006, to complement our Practice Guidance and support centres in gathering information about their area and recording how they engage with excluded groups.

In August, we announced significant additional funds for children's centres for 2008-11 including funding to enable local authorities to add two outreach workers to centres serving the most disadvantaged communities, with a particular emphasis on reaching out to and supporting more fathers.

Research evidence shows that the impact a father's early involvement has on their child is long-lasting. Our revised Practice Guidance therefore emphasises the crucial role fathers have to play in giving their children the best start in life. It provides advice about how children's centres can tailor their services to meet the needs of fathers, including non-resident parents, how staff should be encouraged to engage proactively with fathers and specific areas where fathers may require additional support. The Planning and Performance Management guidance recommends that children's centres assess how well they engage with fathers and the TfC toolkit includes advice on working with fathers.

We have not made an assessment of how well children's centres work with organisations from the community sector. However, an early survey of Phase 1 children's centres showed that 82 per cent. of children's centres had contracts with the voluntary sector for services. The Practice Guidance makes clear that local authorities must work with those organisations that have a track record of understanding local needs and delivering services that improve children's outcomes. In addition, we require local authorities to consult and consider using all private, voluntary and community sector organisations in the area when planning and developing children's centres services. In 2008, local authorities must review all centres developed in 2003-06 to ensure that maximum use has been made of good quality local private, voluntary and community sector suppliers and repeat this exercise every two years. We expect local authorities to keep evidence that they have carried out the required reviews.

Children's Commissioner for England: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press officers are employed by the Children's Commissioner for England. [154553]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for the Children's Commissioner for England. Rob Williams, the chief executive of the Office of the Children's Commissioner, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Rob Williams, dated 5 October 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the parliamentary question that you recently tabled 154553. To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many press officers are employed by the Children's Commissioner.

11 MILLION is a national organisation led by the Children's Commissioner for England, Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green. Our mission is to use our powers and independence to ensure that the views of children and young people are routinely asked for, listened to and that outcomes for children improve over time. We aim to do this in partnership with others, by bringing children and young people into the heart of the decision-making process to increase understanding of their best interests.

Our two long-term goals are that children and young people see significant improvements in their wellbeing and can freely enjoy their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and that children and young people are more highly valued by adult society.

In the financial year 2007/08, 11 MILLION has the equivalent of 2.5 staff members spread across two full-time press officers and other communications staff.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the house library.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155885]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's advertising spend in 2007-08 is as follows:

£ million

	Spend to date	*Projected spend*
Television	1.519	1.546
Radio	0.944	1.432
Print	0.180	0.470

Departmental spend on all promotional campaigns is not held centrally. This is funded from policy programmes and from within the central Advertising and Publicity (A and P) budget.

The A and P budget for 2007-2008 is £13.5 million. In addition to funding promotional campaigns, this covers a wide variety of publicity activities (e.g. the Children's Plan consultation, magazines for teachers and governors and attendance at events like The Education Show), as well as marketing infrastructure support (e.g. paying for the Department's mailing house).

It is not possible to provide figures for 2008-09. Budgets for individual campaigns will not be agreed until communications priorities and objectives for 2008-09 have been finalised and planning (informed by evaluation of 2007-08 activity) has been completed.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received from the Youth Parliament on sex and relationships education in schools; and if he will make a statement. [152369]

Beverley Hughes: The Minister of State for Schools and Learners attended the launch on 4 July of the UK Youth Parliament's report "Sex and Relationships Education - Are You Getting It?"

He commended the members of the Youth Parliament for their efforts in producing the report and said that the Department would consider it in more detail.

Play: Facilities

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice he has issued to local authorities on the commercial sponsorship of children's play facilities. [154788]

Kevin Brennan: We recognise fully the benefits of play for children and we continue to take steps to support and promote the provision of opportunities for play. We have not issued guidance on the commercial sponsorship of children's play facilities: funding for such facilities is a matter for each local authority to determine.

Pupils: Foreigners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children in England are foreign nationals. [156311]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not hold the requested information as schools are not required to separately identify pupils from overseas.

Pupils: Speech Therapy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the supply of speech therapists for pupils in schools; [154760]

(2) what the average waiting time was for a speech therapy assessment in each English local education authority in the last period for which figures are available. [150803]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

No assessment has been made centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, outlined in the national service frameworks, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of speech and language therapy (SLT).

A major review into the provision of services for children and young people with speech, language and communications needs was announced on 11 September by my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Health. The review will report by summer 2008 and will build on the investment and improvements to SLT and resources in the last 10 years.

Information about waiting times for SLT provided by the national health service (NHS) are not collected centrally. The Department of Health collects waiting times information by consultant led specialties. SLT is not a consultant led speciality. Our objective is to balance the need for data against the burden that data collection places on the NHS.

Respect Budget: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been provided to Bournemouth through the Respect budget; and for what purposes. [156190]

Kevin Brennan: The total Respect grant allocated to Bournemouth between 2006-08 is £387,307.

In 2006-07 the Respect Task Force provided Bournemouth borough council with a total grant of £48,860.

This funding allocation contributed to Bournemouth council's wider effort to tackle antisocial behaviour and contributed towards the initial set up costs of its Family Intervention Project.

In 2007-08 the Respect Task Force has made available a total Respect grant allocation of £338,447. This represents:

£50,000 for a parenting expert, based in or linked to the antisocial behaviour team, to deliver additional parenting support to families. This funding was announced on 21 November 2006 and is available in 77 areas across England.

£125,000 to improve Bournemouth's parenting services for families whose children are at risk of or involved in antisocial behaviour. The Respect Task Force announced this funding on 22 January 2007 as part of a wider announcement highlighting the commitment of 40 areas to become Respect areas, of which Bournemouth were announced as one. All Respect areas were invited to apply for £125,000.

£128,447 allocated for the set-up and operation of its Family Intervention Project, one of 53 projects being established across the country.

£35,000 Respect grant contribution has been allocated to Bournemouth's Local Area Agreement pot which can be used flexibly to deliver the Respect programme.

In addition to direct Respect grants, Bournemouth can flexibly use other funds, pooled through Local Area Agreements to tackle antisocial behaviour and implement the Respect programme.

Young People: Expenditure

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the planned extra expenditure on services aimed at young people will be ring-fenced; and if he will make a statement. [155733]

Beverley Hughes: Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities was launched on 26 July 2007. The strategy announced the DCSF comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement in relation to services for young people, which provides an additional £184 million alongside continuing funding of £495 million for positive activities over the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

A relatively large proportion (around two thirds) of this proposed £679 million expenditure will be ring-fenced for specific purposes including for: centrally managed schemes; participatory budgeting by young people themselves; and initiatives within the third sector. The remainder of the monies will be pooled within the new area based grants and negotiated via local area agreements.

Youth Clubs: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many youth clubs are funded by his Department. [154790]

Beverley Hughes: Youth centres are delivered locally by local authorities through their youth provision and national and local voluntary youth organisations. Information is not held centrally on the number of youth centres at local, regional or national level.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on youth clubs by his Department in the last 12 months. [154792]

Beverley Hughes: Youth centres are delivered locally by local authorities through their youth provision and national and local voluntary youth organisations. Information is not held centrally on how much has been spent on youth centres at local, regional or national level.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds: Conservation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Royal Society for Protection of Birds on increasing the number of marine wildlife reserves. [155945]

Jonathan Shaw: As I indicated in a letter of 30 September 2007 to the Royal Society for Protection of Birds' (RSPB) chief executive, I would welcome an opportunity to hold discussions with the RSPB. These discussions could include consideration of marine wildlife reserves and the possibility of increasing their number.

Conservation: Solent

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of measures to protect the marine environment of the western Solent; whether he has plans to make legislative provision for those measures in a Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [156382]

Jonathan Shaw: Marine waters in England and Wales are assessed regularly by DEFRA and the Environment Agency. The most recent assessment of the state of the UK seas, "Charting Progress—an Integrated Assessment of the State of the UK Seas" (2005), contains a regional assessment of the Eastern English Channel which includes the Western Solent. Measures in place to protect the marine environment in the western Solent include 100 management plans and initiatives, covering all or part of the Solent, that address issues such as nature conservation, coastal defence and emergency planning.

The Marine Bill will enable us to take a significant step forward in the way we plan for and manage activities in the marine area. It will provide us with the tools to deliver better protection for marine life, and integrated planning and management of our seas, coasts and estuaries. DEFRA officials are working closely with organisations in the western Solent to ensure that the Marine Bill proposals are developed in a way that can be beneficial for that, and other, local areas.

Dredging

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the process of applying for and being granted a licence to dredge off the coast of England; and if he will make a statement; [156546]

(2) how many licences were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused for dredging off the coast of (i) England and (ii) the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [156547]

(3) how much was received for dredging licences in respect of sites off the coast of *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [156549]

Jonathan Shaw: The hon. Member's questions appear to concern the dredging of marine minerals (the extraction of sand and gravel from the seabed to be landed for use in construction or beach maintenance) rather than dredging more generally. I will therefore confine my answer to this area.

The Crown Estate, as landowner up to 12 miles offshore and the owner of the rights to non-energy minerals within the UK continental shelf and beyond, issues licences to dredge for marine minerals. Thirteen licences were issued in the last 10 years. The numbers issued in each year are set out in Table 1. No licences were issued for dredging off the coast of the East Riding of Yorkshire in this period and no marine minerals dredging is currently licensed there. The closest that any such dredging currently takes place to this coast is to the south of Spurn Head and some 10 kilometres off the coast of Lincolnshire which the Crown Estate refers to as the Humber region for administrative purposes. Two licences were issued in this area, in 2000.

No licences were refused during this period. Licence proposals that were likely to be refused were either abandoned by the prospective applicant before submission as applications, or withdrawn before any formal decision was made.

Table 1

	Licences issued for English waters
1997	0
1998	0
1999	1
2000	3
2001	2
2002	0
2003	1
2004	0
2005	2
2006	4
Total	13

The Crown Estate receives royalties from operators for every tonne of aggregate that is dredged from the seabed that it either owns or controls. Table 2 shows the royalties it has received from English dredging operations over the past 10 years. Net income received by the Crown Estate is paid into the consolidated fund. As there is no aggregate dredging there, no royalties have been received from dredging off the coast of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Table 2

Year	*£ million Crown Estate royalties for English waters*
1997	9.13
1998	9.46
1999	11.87
2000	12.48
2001	11.38
2002	12.11
2003	12.15
2004	12.25
2005	12.60
2006	13.27
Total	116.70

The Crown Estate only issues a licence when it has received the consent of central Government to the proposal. In the period in question, Government consent was delivered through the Government View system.

Until 1 April this year, the Department for Communities and Local Government was responsible for keeping the effectiveness of the process for giving Government's consent under review. Since then DEFRA has been responsible.

As a result of ongoing assessment and regular dialogue with stakeholders, the Government concluded that the existing process needed updating to make the system more transparent and efficient, and to reflect relevant European legislation. A new system to do this was introduced by the Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 1 May this year.

The Government are committed to ensuring that decisions on applications are made on the basis of the best possible scientific evidence. In recent years much research has been carried out on understanding coastal processes and the potential impacts of aggregate dredging. DEFRA has recently published a report on this work, funded by the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (which was set up by DEFRA), entitled 'Marine Aggregate Dredging: Helping to Determine Good Practice', published 9 July 2007. This work supports the Government's increasingly sophisticated management of aggregate extraction integrated with the protection of resources of conservation and heritage significance. We are not aware of any scientific evidence to indicate that marine minerals dredging, as controlled by the Government since 1968, has had any effect on the coast or significantly affected the marine environment. The Government are satisfied that the regulation of marine minerals dredging is both effective and adequate.

Farms: Mushrooms

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action is being taken under the latest statutory guidelines to control emissions from mushroom farms. [156539]

Mr. Woolas: Statutory guidance note PG6/30(06) specified various improvements to mushroom substrate manufacturing installations for completion in most cases before 1 March 2007. Local authorities are required to have regard to such guidance, but must ultimately decide on pollution control standards in each individual case, taking account of site-specific factors.

I understand that the TunnelTech mushroom composting plant regulated by Bassetlaw district council has been served with an enforcement notice requiring improvements to be made by 30 June 2008 and that the improvements go beyond those specified in the guidance.

Fisheries: Closures

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which fisheries have closed in each month during 2007; and if he will make a statement. [155905]

Jonathan Shaw: UK Fisheries Administrations have closed, in-year, a total of six fisheries to all UK registered vessels. These are set out in the table as follows:

Fishery	*Month of closure*
North Sea Sandeels	May
Herring VII	July
Deep Sea tusk V, VI, VII	July
West of Scotland herring	September
Irish Sea haddock	September
Bluefin tuna Atlantic Ocean, east of 45, and Mediterranean	October

These closures are kept under review and, if quota becomes available from outside the UK, it is possible that they may be re-opened. Further fishery closures at a UK-level will be undertaken if the UK quota for particular stocks is taken in full.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for quota swaps to increase fishing opportunities for the under-10 metre fleet; and if he will make a statement. [155736]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) is exploring all options for acquiring additional fishing opportunities for 10 metre and under vessels, including through quota swaps. This work has been under way throughout 2007 and will continue, particularly for those stocks for which the 10 metre and under vessels have the greatest need. The opportunity to undertake such swaps is limited as those stocks are, in may cases, those under most pressure from other sectors of the UK industry and the fishing industry in other EU member states. A number of swap options are currently being considered. However, it is not possible to provide details at this time as to do so might prejudice the ability of the MFA to bring the negotiations to successful conclusions.

Flood Control

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of flood defences and structures owned and maintained by the Environment Agency were in a good or better condition in April 2007. [153850]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency does not own all of the flood defence assets that it maintains for the benefit of the general public.

The proportion (by length) of flood defences such as raised walls and embankments, maintained by the Environment Agency that were in good or better condition in April 2007 was 55 per cent., with a further 40 per cent. in fair condition.

The proportion (by number) of flood defence structures such as sluices and outfalls, maintained by the Environment Agency that were in good or better condition in April 2007 was 69 per cent., with a further 26 per cent. in fair condition.

These assessments are based on visual inspections.

Flood Control: Climate Change

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to re-examine the planned levels of spending on the flood protection and water drainage infrastructure to meet the effects of climate change. [154574]

Mr. Woolas: Funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management will increase from the current £600 million a year to £800 million a year by 2010-11. This reflects the evidence prepared for the comprehensive spending review and is consistent with the rate of increase suggested by the Foresight Future Flooding study, which took a long-term view of national flooding and coastal erosion risks to 2100.

Floods: Broadcasting Reception

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingencies are in place for the rapid relaying of flood warnings by the Environment Agency in the event of the sustained breakdown of the BBC digital signal on radio and television broadcasts; and if he will make a statement. [154190]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency uses a range of methods for communicating flood warnings, which include automated telephone warnings. Radio and television broadcasts are also used and in the event of the sustained breakdown of these, the Environment Agency will use loudhailers (speakers mounted on Environment Agency vehicles) that can broadcast a pre-recorded warning message in the affected areas.

In the event of severe flooding, gold command operations would be utilised.

Housing: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many properties will be protected each year by the recently announced additional proposed expenditure for flood defences. [154113]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA introduced new outcome measures for flood and coastal erosion risk management and will be setting targets using them shortly. This will include the number of properties moving between probability bands. In setting targets, we will consider the funding levels we are able to set following the announcement of the Department's formal comprehensive spending review settlement. It is not yet known how many extra properties will be protected.

Institute for Animal Health: Waste Disposal

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when the last inspection of the effluent pipes at Pirbright took place; and if he will list the dates of the effluent pipe inspections at Pirbright since 2001; [155477]

(2) when Ministers were first informed that the effluent pipes at the Pirbright Institute for Animal Health were deficient and likely to leak effluent; [155531]

(3) when Ministers were first informed of requests to replace or renew the effluent pipes at Pirbright. [155544]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The drainage systems of laboratories licensed by the Department to handle specified animal pathogens under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998 are not routinely inspected. The responsibility for the integrity of the buildings and infrastructure rests with the licensee and the owners of the site. No specific concerns that would have suggested that the integrity of the effluent pipe system at Pirbright was at risk, were raised with DEFRA as licensor and regulator. DEFRA was not asked by the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) for money to replace or renew the drainage system because of concerns about the risk of effluent leakage. Any issues relating to funding of the effluent drainage system, whether remedial or replacement, would be a matter for the IAH and Merial (as the occupants of the Pirbright site), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) (which owns the land and buildings on the Pirbright site) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) (as the IAH's and BBSRC's sponsoring Department).

Until the investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into potential biosecurity breaches at Pirbright was under way, there was no indication that there was a risk of effluent escaping from the drainage system; although there had been some concerns over the possibility of water leaking into the drains via the manhole covers, that was brought to DEFRA's attention. However, it had been recognised that the system was old. The HSE informed DEFRA Ministers, on 17 August, that leaks could have occurred from the system. On the same day, DEFRA contacted the IAH, which that afternoon put into effect a plan controlling access and strengthening biosecurity measures for movement of people and vehicles. The report from the HSE investigation contains a detailed inspection of the drainage system, and is available from the DEFRA website and the Libraries of the House.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice Ministers received about the implications for bio security of the decision not to fund the repair of deficient pipework at the Pirbright Institute for Animal Health site. [155532]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* DEFRA is the licensor and regulator of the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998. Prior to the Health and Safety Executive's advice in August 2007, neither the IAH, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), as owners of the site, nor anyone else raised concerns with DEFRA about possible biosecurity issues relating to the effluent drainage system.

Any issues relating to funding of the effluent drainage system, whether remedial or replacement, would be a matter for the IAH and Merial (as the occupants of the Pirbright site), BBSRC (as the IAH's funding body) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) (as the IAH's and BBSRC's sponsoring Department). In its role as licensor and regulator, DEFRA was consulted about the requirements and specifications

of a replacement effluent drainage system to meet extra capacity demand and to address concerns about water getting into the drains via the manhole covers, and was kept informed of progress in relation to instigation of the work. At no stage was any indication given to DEFRA, that there might be possible implications for biosecurity resulting from delays in agreeing funding between the parties concerned.

Utilities: Meters

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of differences in recent trends in charges by energy companies to customers with prepayment meters compared to those paying by direct debit on the achievement of fuel poverty targets. [153359]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The amount a customer is paying for their energy is one of the key determinants of whether such a household might be in fuel poverty, and we acknowledged in the Energy White Paper that the gap between direct debit and other payment methods has been increasing. I am encouraged by the work of Ofgem to highlight the savings prepayment customers can make by switching to a cheaper supplier. However, use of prepayment meters is not wholly synonymous with fuel poverty, and the majority of fuel poor customers pay for their gas and electricity by direct debit or standard credit. We will publish shortly our annual Fuel Poverty Progress Report which will include the latest data and projections on fuel poverty levels and a full examination of the factors driving the levels of fuel poverty, including energy market issues.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Armed Conflict

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions officials in his Office have held with officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office regarding supporting of conflict resolution programmes overseas. [155829]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are always ready to share their experience of the Northern Ireland peace process where this might be of assistance to others. My officials have from time to time discussed with the FCO where such assistance might be offered, although no central record is kept of this.

I can, however, confirm a number of recent instances of engagement by former NIO Ministers and officials in supporting conflict resolution. One of my predecessors as Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy), accompanied by a senior official in the Northern Ireland Office, visited Sri Lanka from 14-16 November 2006. One of my officials visited Tanzania from 5-8 July 2007 to share lessons from the Northern Ireland peace process which might help efforts to address political polarisation in Zanzibar. An NIO official also met with representatives of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo at a private conference in New York in April 2007 organised by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. In each case these engagements were discussed in advance with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Drugs

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland who were released from prison after serving a sentence for drug-related offences subsequently re-offended in each of the last five years. [154010]

Paul Goggins: Re-offending data are not available and reconviction data are only available for those released from prison in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

The following table gives the number of offenders that were released from prison for drug-related offences who were subsequently reconvicted for any offence within a two year period. Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Reconviction rates for those who were discharged from custody after serving sentences for drug offences (2001-03) and who were reconvicted for any offence within a two year period

	Number discharged from prison for drug offences	*Number reconvicted for any offence within a two year period*
2001	59	17
2002	56	18
2003	53	23

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average sentence handed down by the courts in Northern Ireland for *(a)* possession of and *(b)* dealing in drugs was in each of the last five years. [154012]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following tables.

Tables 1 and 2 give the number of disposals and the average sentence length for each disposal type for unlawful possession of drugs and unlawful dealing in drugs respectively.

Data cover the calendar years 2001 to 2005, the latest available years, and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Disposals given to those convicted of unlawful possession of drugs and the average sentence given by the courts for the years 2001-05

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Immediate custody	23	21	23	23	23
Average sentence (months)[1,2]	6	11	8	7	8
Suspended custody	32	25	23	28	33
Average sentence (months)	6	6	8	7	6
Community Service Order	17	13	8	8	15

Table 1: Disposals given to those convicted of unlawful possession of drugs and the average sentence given by the courts for the years 2001-05

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Average sentence (hours)	102	100	134	155	128
Attendance Centre Order	1	0	1	1	2
Average sentence (hours)	12	—	12	24	18
Probation Order	33	18	29	36	31
Average sentence (months)	12	12	14	12	15
Fine	175	192	242	263	314
Average amount (£)	145	114	121	128	134
Combination Order	2	0	3	1	6
Average probation period (months)[3]	—	—	18	12	12
Average community service period (hours)[3]	—	—	80	100	83
Youth Conference Order[4]	—	—	—	1	0
Conditional Discharge	25	25	45	40	29
Other[5]	2	3	4	0	4
Total number convicted	310	297	378	401	457

'—' = Not applicable.
[1] Data include those sentenced to prison, Young Offenders' Centre and those given Custody Probation Orders.
[2] Average immediate custodial sentence length for 2002 excludes one sentenced to juvenile justice centre order; 2003 excludes one sentenced to a juvenile justice centre order and one sentenced to detention at the Secretary of State's pleasure; 2005 excludes two sentenced to a juvenile justice centre order.
[3] Data are not available for the average probation period (months) and the average community service period (hours) for Combination Orders for 2001 and 2002.
[4] Average sentence lengths are not given for Youth Conference Orders.
[5] Other includes Absolute discharge and Recognisance.

Table 2: Disposals given to those convicted of dealing in drugs and the average sentence given by the courts for the years 2001-05

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Immediate custody[1]	65	44	56	61	60
Average sentence (months)	26	22	30	28	22
Suspended custody	65	40	35	67	47
Average sentence (months)	19	18	17	20	20
Community Service Order	5	2	4	6	4
Average sentence (hours)	116	170	133	145	180
Attendance Centre Order	0	0	0	1	0
Average sentence (hours)	—	—	—	24	—
Probation Order	2	6	7	14	11
Average sentence (months)	24	20	19	18	16
Fine	7	14	9	20	16
Average amount (£)	221	128	106	254	209
Combination Order	1	4	4	9	6
Average probation period (months)[2]	—	—	15	17	14
Average community service period (hours)[2]	—	—	95	78	65
Youth Conference Order[3]	—	—	—	0	1
Conditional Discharge	6	2	4	4	4
Other[4]	1	0	0	0	0
Total number convicted	152	112	119	182	149

'—' = Not applicable.
[1] Data include those sentenced to prison, Young Offenders' Centre and those given Custody Probation Orders.
[2] Data are not available for the average probation period (months) and the average community service period (hours) for Combination Orders for 2001 and 2002.
[3] Average sentence lengths are not given for Youth Conference Orders.
[4] Other includes Absolute discharge and Recognisance.

Northern Ireland Police Authority; Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press officers are employed by the Northern Ireland Police. [154720]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI currently employ 16 personnel, filling 13 Press Officer positions (one of whom is part-time) and three Senior Press Officer positions.

Rates and Rating: Northern Ireland

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland where responsibility lies for making changes to the system of local taxation in Northern Ireland. [154688]

Mr. Woodward: Local taxation in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the devolved Administration in Northern Ireland. The UK Government remain responsibility for taxes that apply to the United Kingdom as a whole.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the UK Government are making a submission to the Northern Ireland Executive's review of domestic rates. [153890]

Mr. Woodward: Local Taxation in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the devolved Administration in Northern Ireland. The Government have no plans to make a submission to the review of domestic rates in Northern Ireland.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 955W, on valuation and rating, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by the Rate Collection Agency's Chief Executive. [153893]

Mr. Woodward: A copy of the Chief Executive's letter has now been placed in the Library of the House.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* shortest sentence, *(b)* shortest suspended sentence and *(c)* lowest fine handed down by the courts in Northern Ireland was following conviction for (i) rape, (ii) attempted rape, (iii) indecent assault on a female, (iv) indecent assault on a male, (v) indecent assault on a female child, (vi) indecent assault on a male child, (vii) gross indecency with a child, (viii) buggery with a boy under 16 years of age, (ix) buggery with a girl, (x) unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years, (xi) unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years, (xii) permitting a girl under 17 years to use premises for intercourse, (xiii) incest by man, (xiv) indecent exposure with intent to assault a female, (xv) exposure, (xvi) voyeurism, (xvii) sex offender failing to notify police of change of address, (xviii) breach of interim sex offender's prevention order, (xix) bigamy, (xx) distributing indecent photographs of children, (xxi) possessing indecent photograph of a child, (xxii) taking indecent photograph or pseudo photograph of children and (xxiii) making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph of children in each of the last three years. [154009]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following tables.

Tables 1-3 give the number sentenced to immediate custody and the minimum sentence length (in months) handed down by the courts for those convicted of specific sexual offences for the calendar years 2003 to 2005 (the latest years available). Tables 4-6 provide similar information for those given a suspended sentence.

The number of defendants disposed of by a fine and the minimum fine amount given over the same period are documented in tables 7-9.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number sentenced to immediate custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2003

Offence	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Minimum custodial sentence given (months)*
Rape	8	18
Attempted rape	1	24
Indecent assault on female	30	4
Indecent assault on male	4	12
Indecent assault on female child	3	12
Indecent assault on male child	0	[1]
Gross indecency with child	5	12
Buggery with boy under 16 years	1	84
Buggery with girl	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	1	60
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	0	[1]
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	[1]
Incest by man	0	[1]
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[1]
Indecent exposure	0	[1]
Voyeurism	0	[1]
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	0	[1]
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	0	[1]
Bigamy	0	[1]
Distributing indecent photographs of children	0	[1]
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	0	[1]
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	1	24
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	0	[1]

[1] Sentence length is not applicable.

Table 2: Number sentenced to immediate custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2004

Offence	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Minimum custodial sentence given (months)*
Rape	15	48
Attempted rape	3	48
Indecent assault on female	19	2
Indecent assault on male	9	3
Indecent assault on female child	2	12
Indecent assault on male child[1]	2	48
Gross indecency with child	3	12
Buggery with boy under 16 years	4	60
Buggery with girl	1	24

Table 2: Number sentenced to immediate custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2004

Offence	Number sentenced to immediate custody	Minimum custodial sentence given (months)
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	3	6
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	0	[2]—
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	[2]—
Incest by man	0	[2]—
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[2]—
Indecent exposure	1	1
Voyeurism	0	[2]—
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	0	[2]—
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	0	[2]—
Bigamy	0	[2]—
Distributing indecent photographs of children	1	12
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	1	6
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	2	6
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	4	6

[1] One offender was sentenced to prison and one given a juvenile justice centre order. The shortest sentence length stated is based on the prison sentence.
[2] Sentence length is not applicable.

Table 3: Number sentenced to immediate custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2005

Offence	Number sentenced to immediate custody	Minimum custodial sentence given (months)
Rape	4	48
Attempted rape	4	60
Indecent assault on female	21	3
Indecent assault on male	4	9
Indecent assault on female child	13	6
Indecent assault on male child	3	8
Gross indecency with child	3	8
Buggery with boy under 16 years	1	96
Buggery with girl	0	[1]—
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	3	14
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	0	[1]—
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	[1]—
Incest by man	1	36
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[1]—
Indecent exposure	0	[1]—

Table 3: Number sentenced to immediate custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2005

Offence	Number sentenced to immediate custody	Minimum custodial sentence given (months)
Voyeurism	0	[1]—
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	1	3
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	0	[1]—
Bigamy	1	12
Distributing indecent photographs of children	0	[1]—
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	1	18
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	[1]—
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	5	4

[1] Sentence length is not applicable.

Table 4: Number sentenced to suspended custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2003

Offence	Number sentenced to suspended custody	Minimum suspended sentence given (months)
Rape	0	[1]—
Attempted rape	0	[1]—
Indecent assault on female	13	3
Indecent assault on male	0	[1]—
Indecent assault on female child	0	[1]—
Indecent assault on male child	0	[1]—
Gross indecency with child	0	[1]—
Buggery with boy under 16 years	0	[1]—
Buggery with girl	0	[1]—
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	0	[1]—
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	3	8
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	[1]—
Incest by man	0	[1]—
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[1]—
Indecent exposure	1	3
Voyeurism	0	[1]—
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	0	[1]—
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	0	[1]—
Bigamy	1	5
Distributing indecent photographs of children	0	[1]—
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	1	4
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	3	2
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	0	[1]—

[1] Sentence length is not applicable.

Table 5: Number sentenced to suspended custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2004

Offence	Number sentenced to suspended custody	Minimum suspended sentence given (months)
Rape	0	[1]
Attempted rape	0	[1]
Indecent assault on female	18	1
Indecent assault on male	2	6
Indecent assault on female child	1	24
Indecent assault on male child	2	18
Gross indecency with child	0	[1]
Buggery with boy under 16 years	2	24
Buggery with girl	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	1	36
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	1	12
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	[1]
Incest by man	0	[1]
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[1]
Indecent exposure	0	[1]
Voyeurism	0	[1]
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	0	[1]
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	0	[1]
Bigamy	0	[1]
Distributing indecent photographs of children	0	[1]
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	0	[1]
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	1	6
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	0	[1]

[1] Sentence length is not applicable.

Table 6: Number sentenced to suspended custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2005

Offence	Number sentenced to suspended custody	Minimum suspended sentence given (months)
Rape	0	[1]
Attempted rape	0	[1]
Indecent assault on female	9	2
Indecent assault on male	2	6
Indecent assault on female child	1	18
Indecent assault on male child	2	6
Gross indecency with child	2	2
Buggery with boy under 16 years	0	[1]
Buggery with girl	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	0	[1]

Table 6: Number sentenced to suspended custody for sexual offences and the minimum sentence length (in months) given by offence for the year 2005

Offence	Number sentenced to suspended custody	Minimum suspended sentence given (months)
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	2	4
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	1	18
Incest by man	0	[1]
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[1]
Indecent exposure	0	[1]
Voyeurism	1	4
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	0	[1]
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	1	3
Bigamy	0	[1]
Distributing indecent photographs of children	1	3
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	1	12
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	1	1
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	0	[1]

[1] Sentence length is not applicable.

Table 7: Number sentenced to a fine for sexual offences and the minimum fine (£) given by offence for the year 2003

Offence	Number sentenced to a fine	Minimum fine given (£)
Rape	0	[1]
Attempted rape	0	[1]
Indecent assault on female	3	400
Indecent assault on male	0	[1]
Indecent assault on female child	0	[1]
Indecent assault on male child	0	[1]
Gross indecency with child	0	[1]
Buggery with boy under 16 years	0	[1]
Buggery with girl	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	0	[1]
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	[1]
Incest by man	0	[1]
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[1]
Indecent exposure	0	[1]
Voyeurism	0	[1]
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	0	[1]
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	0	[1]
Bigamy	1	100
Distributing indecent photographs of children	0	[1]

Table 7: Number sentenced to a fine for sexual offences and the minimum fine (£) given by offence for the year 2003

Offence	Number sentenced to a fine	Minimum fine given (£)
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	2	250
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	[1]
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	0	[1]

[1] Fine amount is not applicable.

Table 8: Number sentenced to a fine for sexual offences and the minimum fine (£) given by offence for the year 2004

Offence	Number sentenced to a fine	Minimum fine given (£)
Rape	0	[1]
Attempted rape	0	[1]
Indecent assault on female	2	150
Indecent assault on male	1	250
Indecent assault on female child	0	[1]
Indecent assault on male child	0	[1]
Gross indecency with child	0	[1]
Buggery with boy under 16 years	0	[1]
Buggery with girl	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	0	[1]
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	[1]
Incest by man	0	[1]
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[1]
Indecent exposure	0	[1]
Voyeurism	0	[1]
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	0	[1]
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	0	[1]
Bigamy	0	[1]
Distributing indecent photographs of children	0	[1]
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	0	[1]
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	[1]
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	0	[1]

[1] Fine amount is not applicable.

Table 9: Number sentenced to a fine for sexual offences and the minimum fine (£) given by offence for the year 2005

Offence	Number sentenced to a fine	Minimum fine given (£)
Rape	0	[1]
Attempted rape	0	[1]
Indecent assault on female	4	100
Indecent assault on male	0	[1]

Table 9: Number sentenced to a fine for sexual offences and the minimum fine (£) given by offence for the year 2005

Offence	Number sentenced to a fine	Minimum fine given (£)
Indecent assault on female child	1	2,500
Indecent assault on male child	0	[1]
Gross indecency with child	0	[1]
Buggery with boy under 16 years	0	[1]
Buggery with girl	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	0	[1]
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	0	[1]
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	[1]
Incest by man	0	[1]
Indecent exposure with intent to insult a female	0	[1]
Indecent exposure	0	[1]
Voyeurism	0	[1]
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	4	100
Breach of interim sex offender's prevention order	0	[1]
Bigamy	0	[1]
Distributing indecent photographs of children	0	[1]
Possessing indecent photograph(s) of child(ren)	0	[1]
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	[1]
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph(s) of children	0	[1]

[1] Fine amount is not applicable.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland previously convicted of *(a)* rape and *(b)* other sexual assault have subsequently committed other sexual offences in each of the last five years. [154011]

Paul Goggins: Re-offending data are not available and reconviction data are only available for those released from prison in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

It is not possible to break reconviction data into individual sexual offence types. The following table gives the numbers that were released from prison for sexual offences who were subsequently reconvicted for other sexual offences within a two year period. Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Reconviction rates for those who were discharged from custody after serving sentences for sexual offences (2001-03) and who were reconvicted for sexual offences within a two year period

	Number discharged from prison for sexual offences	Number reconvicted for sexual offences within a two year period
2001	51	0
2002	52	1
2003	39	1

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Day Care

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial implications in terms of *(a)* rewards for fulfilment and *(b)* penalties for failure will be introduced on local authorities following the introduction in April 2008 of the duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. [154312]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

We are determined that local authorities should have the resources they need to fulfil the statutory duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents. Accordingly, from April 2008 the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant will include an appropriate allocation. Successive sufficiency assessments conducted by local authorities will indicate their success in closing gaps in provision; and the Government offices for the regions will also monitor authorities' progress in securing sufficiency. It will be open to anyone who believes they have been the victim of maladministration by local authorities in relation to the sufficiency duty to seek redress through various means, including the Local Government Ombudsman.

The Government do not consider that it would be appropriate to introduce a system of financial rewards and penalties in relation to fulfilment of this statutory duty.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reason is for the further delay in dealing with the case of Mr. and Mrs. Beardsmore of Paignton and responding to the hon. Member for Totnes' letter of 4 July and subsequent letter of 13 August to the chief executive of the Child Support Agency. [155458]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 9 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the reason is for the further delay with the case of Mr and Mrs Beardsmore of Paignton and responding to the hon. Member for Totnes' letter of 4 July 07 and subsequent letter of 13 August 07 to the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency. [155458]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153581]

Mrs. McGuire: The latest figures based on the position at 31 March 2007 are that 6,854 staff across the department have declared that they are disabled. As a proportion of staff who have declared a disability status of 115,525, this equates to 5.93 per cent. of staff. Individual agency figures are contained in the following table.

The figures are based on the proportion of staff who have voluntarily declared themselves as being disabled. However, we are aware that not all disabled staff declare their disability for departmental records, and the true figure may be higher than the figures shown. For example, the 2006 DWP Staff Survey (which is completed anonymously), showed that 13 per cent. of respondents considered themselves to have a long standing health condition or disability.

The roll out of a new computer system by the end of April has meant a more accurate assessment of the numbers of disabled people working within the Department. As we roll out we are asking each member of staff to check the personal information we hold about them and to declare whether they consider themselves to be disabled. A further joint communications exercise with departmental trade unions to highlight the importance of individuals providing this information is also planned.

Organisation	*Total headcount*	*Total staff who have made a declaration*	*Actuals non disabled*	*Actuals disabled*	*Percentage disabled staff*
Jobcentre Plus	75,906	71,606	66,893	4,713	6.58
The Pension Service	13,888	13,888	13,203	685	4.93
Disability and Carers Service	6,731	6,731	6,298	433	6.43
CSA	12,614	12,614	12,145	469	3.72
Corporate Centre	10,686	10,686	10,132	554	5.18
Total DWP	119,825	115,525	108,671	6,854	5.93

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153179]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department engaged 36 non-civil service contractors to fill interim posts during this period.

In addition, my Department publishes information annually on appointments to the public bodies for which it is responsible. Data for 2006-07 are available at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/ndpb/DraftPublicBodies.pdf.

Departments: Pension Service

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what systems are in place to ensue accurate information-sharing between his Department and the Pension Service; and if he will make a statement. [156659]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pension Service is part of the Department for Work and Pensions and accordingly there is a free flow of information and data across the organisation. The exchange of information takes place both clerically and via interfacing IT systems.

One of the major features of the Department's IT is a core system (customer information system), which holds a record for each national insurance number holder and a comprehensive range of personal details as a minimum. By linking all of the main benefit application services (e.g. income support computer system, pensions Strategy computer system) to CIS, the Department is able to keep customer records fully updated and is able to provide immediate notification of change of circumstances when they occur.

The IT systems links across DWP, including the Pension Service through CIS, and include the transition from working age to pensions.

Employment: Lone Parents

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how may work-focused interviews have been booked with lone parents whose youngest child is aged 11 or over in the last 12 months; how many lone parents whose youngest child is 11 or over *(a)* moved into work and *(b)* came off benefits in each of the last 12 months; how many sanctions for failing to attend a work-focused interview were applied to lone parents whose youngest child is aged 11 or over in each of the last 12 months. [155938]

Caroline Flint: 374,000 work-focused interviews were booked for lone parents with a youngest child aged 11 or over between April 2006 and March 2007.

The remaining available information is in the following table.

Lone parents with youngest child aged 11 and over

Month	*Into work*	*Off benefits*	*Sanctions*
2006			
April	1,940	3,580	840
May	2,300	3,640	1,060
June	2,100	3,500	1,060
July	2,020	3,440	1,040
August	1,860	3,340	1,080
September	2,880	4,040	760
October	2,960	4,640	920
November	2,520	3,340	940
December	1,400	3,220	820
2007			
January	2,020	3,340	980
February	1,720	3,220	980
March	1,660	3,740	1,160

Notes:
1. Employment data relate to lone parents who had claimed income support and were recorded as entering work during the period. Data may include some lone parents who continued their income support claim after finding work.
2. Employment data under-represents lone parents entering work during the period as it excludes some job entries e.g. people with earnings below the tax threshold and those entering self-employment.
3. Data for people moving off benefits in the period are for people who stopped claiming income support and did not continue claiming any other benefit. Those who ended their income support claim, but were in receipt of a different benefit immediately after ending their claim, are not included.
4. Sanctions data only include those who were in receipt of or entitled to income support.
5. Latest available data for all requested information are to March 2007.

Sources:
National Benefits Database and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the impact on pensioner poverty of raising the level of the basic state pension to the level of the guarantee credit; and what assumptions he has used about the take-up of income-related benefits in coming to this estimate. [155947]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have made good progress in tackling pensioner poverty. Since 1997 the number of pensioners living in relative poverty, based on a threshold of 60 per cent. Of contemporary median income after housing costs, has fallen by 1.1 million, from 2.9 million to 1.8 million in 2005-06.

Raising the level of the basic state pension to the level of the guarantee credit is estimated to reduce the number of pensioners below 60 per cent. median income after housing costs by around 200,000 based on 2007-08 benefit rates.

This figure is based on the Department's policy simulation model. Take-up of income related benefits are modelled and lie within the range of published National Statistics estimates.

Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many married women aged *(a)* 60, *(b)* 61, *(c)* 62, *(d)* 63, *(e)* 64, *(f)* 65, *(g)* 66, *(h)* 67, *(i)* 68 and *(j)* 69 are (i) one year, (ii) two years, (iii) three years, (iv) four years, (v) five years, (vi) six years, (vii) seven years, (viii) eight years and (ix) nine or more years short of the number of qualifying years that would be necessary to exceed the 25 per cent. threshold for entitlement to any payment of basic state pension. [155042]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information is not available for married women only. The information that is available is in the following table.

It shows the number of UK women aged between 60 and 69 in 2003-04 who did not satisfy the '25 per cent. rule' for entitlement to a basic state pension on their

own contribution records. It also shows the number of additional qualifying years that would be necessary to satisfy this rule.

Some of these women may be eligible to receive a basic state pension based on their husband's contribution record.

Number of UK women not satisfying the 25 per cent. rule (thousand)

	Additional qualifying years required to satisfy the 25 per cent rule									
Age in 2003-04	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9 or more*	*All*
60	9	7	6	5	4	3	1	2	2	39
61	8	7	8	6	5	5	3	0	4	46
62	9	9	10	8	7	4	4	2	4	56
63	10	10	10	9	7	6	2	2	6	62
64	12	13	11	13	9	7	4	2	5	76
65	14	16	18	13	10	6	4	3	5	89
66	13	16	16	16	12	8	5	2	5	93
67	15	16	16	16	14	7	4	2	7	96
68	12	17	19	14	9	8	5	4	6	94
69	15	17	21	17	11	9	6	2	5	102
All	117	129	135	118	86	63	38	20	48	754

Notes:
1. Figures refer to women living in the UK.
2. Figures refer to entitlement based on women's own contribution records.
3. The information is based on the data held on the national insurance record up to and including the 2003-04 tax year at May 2005. It therefore excludes any national insurance contributions paid after that date.

Source:
Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2003-04

Additionally, pursuant to my answer to PQ/07/155043, *Official Report*, vol. 463, column 2377, the numbers given in that answer now need revising to mirror the same methodology used to determine the numbers for the above answer.

The error arose because the method used to select the data was incorrect in that complete work histories were looked at instead of the national insurance record at the specific ages. This therefore meant that too many people were included in the answer because people would have less than 25 per cent. entitlement in their earlier years but they would have improved their entitlement over their working lives.

The revised table is set out in the following table:

Number of UK women not satisfying the 25 per cent rule (thousand)

	BSP entitlement at state pension age (percentage)					
Age in 2003-04	*0-4*	*5-9*	*10-14*	*15-19*	*20-24*	*All*
60	3	3	8	10	15	39
61	5	4	10	12	15	46
62	6	5	10	17	18	56
63	7	5	13	19	19	62
64	6	7	15	24	25	76
65	6	8	16	31	28	89
66	6	7	20	31	29	93
67	8	6	20	33	30	96
68	7	9	17	33	29	94
69	7	8	19	37	32	102
All	59	60	148	247	241	754

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the *(a)* efficacy and *(b)* fairness of requiring applicants for income support, jobseekers allowance and incapacity benefit to use a telephone; if he will review the requirement that an emergency crisis loan cannot be made from a Jobcentre Plus office customer phone; what estimate he has made of the number of claimants who applied on pay-as-you-go mobile phones that do not give free calls to the 0800 number in the latest period for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of how often applicants did not complete the journey through the automated menu options; and what estimate he has made of how often staff offered applicants alternative means to claim. [155271]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie dated, 9 October 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about applications for benefits and emergency Crisis Loans by

telephone. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Contact Centres were introduced partly in response to the Government's desire to offer a modernised service and partly to respond to customer feedback that Jobcentre Plus services should be handled by phone.

Contact Centres:

are generally more convenient for customers to access (i.e. removes the need to visit a local office);

can offer services over longer opening hours more cost effectively; and

can deliver services more efficiently (e.g. through the more efficient use of space and the better utilisation of staff time).

We take new claims over the telephone as this ensures that we have all the necessary information to complete the claim, therefore minimising any potential delay. However, customers who have difficulty using the telephone for whatever reason can request a face-to-face interview or, where appropriate, a home visit. They can also choose to claim using a clerical claim form.

Customers are not currently permitted to use customer access phones in Jobcentres to make claims for crisis loans. This decision is being reviewed following a request from the Work and Pensions Select Committee and because it is appropriate to keep under review the risks associated with customer reaction to negative decisions. Consultation with relevant parties is underway with specific attention being paid to the issue of access to customers, particularly those who only have the use of mobile phones.

Information is not available regarding the type of telephone used by customers to contact us, as we cannot identify and do not record whether the customer is using a mobile (pay-as-you-go or other) or landline.

We have recently introduced management information to assess disconnected calls during the automated menu options. The months with complete data are June and July 2007 when we received in total 1,197,960 calls to the First Contact Interactive Voice Response. Of these, 155,466 have been disconnected by the customer before being transferred to the queue. Indications for this point to the fact that customers do not have all the information required to make a claim when going through the Interactive Voice Response.

Information is not available on how often customer service agents offer alternative means to claim benefits. However, staff have clear guidance on the circumstances in which customers should be offered different options.

State Retirement Pensions: Widowed People

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many widows in receipt of widow's pension prior to their 60th birthday have failed to claim their state retirement pensi[illegible] [155750]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A woman in receipt of widow's pension has various options on reaching State pension age (currently 60). She can choose to continue receiving her widow's pension up to the age of 65, she can choose to claim her state pension in place of the widow's pension, or she can give up her widow's pension and not draw her state pension in order to earn a higher state pension or lump sum when she does claim it.

Our records show that just over 20,000 women aged 60 to 64 are receiving widow's pension.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Pension Service takes to provide information to widows to claim state retirement pension at 60 years. [155751]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Four months and four days before a person reaches age 60/65, the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS) passes personal and contributions details to the Pensions Strategy Computer System (PSCS) which will set up a pension account if a current address is held and:

(a) the first contribution condition for basic State Pension is satisfied with entitlement of at least 25 per cent. basic State Pension.

(b) there is entitlement to Additional State Pension, Shared Additional State Pension or GRB;

(c) the person is a widow, widower or divorcee (including an annulled marriage), regardless of entitlement in their own right; or

(d) PSCS issues a claim package.

The claims package consists of:

1. leaflet BR33 SPIB that invites the customer to contact the Pension Service to make a claim over the phone, request claim form BR1 over the phone or return a tear-off for claim form BR1 to be issued;

2. a BR33R which contains:

(a) identity details;

(b) the choices on how to claim State Pension;

(c) details of the information the customer needs to have close to hand when contacting the Pension Service by telephone.

Unemployment

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of trends in the level of worklessness among the under 25s since 1997 . [156440]

Caroline Flint: Claimant unemployment is now falling for 18-24 year olds. This is the result of our successful employment policies, including the new deal. Almost three quarters of a million 18-24 year olds have been helped into work through new deal for young people.

Unemployment Benefits: Elderly

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value of attendance allowance and disability living allowance payments to people over retirement age living in the City of York local authority area was in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* 2006-07. [155277]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The available information is in the following table.

Total value of attendance allowance and disability living allowance payments to people aged 60 and over in City of York local authority

£ million

	Attendance allowance	*Disability living allowance*
Cash terms		
1996-97	5.8	2.2
2006-07 (estimated outturn)	11.7	5.6

Total value of attendance allowance and disability living allowance payments to people aged 60 and over in City of York local authority

£ million

	Attendance allowance	Disability living allowance
Real terms		
1996-97	7.6	2.9
2006-07 (estimated outturn)	12.1	5.8

Notes:
1. Benefit caseloads data for 1996-97, produced from 5 per cent. sample data, were up rated to 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) totals. Caseloads for 2006-07 were produced from 100 per cent. WPLS data.
2. Figures are consistent with budget 2007 expenditure forecast.
3. Benefit Expenditure and Caseload Information is available on the DWP website at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 5 per cent. and 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data and Department for Work and Pensions Benefit Expenditure Forecasts.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Border and Immigration Agency

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of lost documentation have the Border and Immigration Agency recorded in the last 12 months. [156340]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics for the numbers of documents lost in the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) are not kept. However the majority of passports held by BIA are in connection with managed migration casework. In the 12 months ending August 2007, 176 passports were lost from managed migration casework. Case working units in Croydon alone retain between 70,000 to 100,000 passports in their possession at any given time.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of letters sent by hon. Members to the Border and Immigration Agency have received a substantive reply within *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* six, *(d)* eight, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* more than 10 weeks; and if she will make a statement. [156288]

Mr. Byrne: In the period 1 January to 30 June 2007, the last period full data is available, the Border and Immigration Agency received 22,636 letters from hon. Members.

Of these:

(a) 12,713 (56.2 per cent.) were answered in three weeks or less

(b) 18,866 (83.3 per cent.) were answered in four weeks or less

(c) 20,917 (92.4 per cent.) were answered in six weeks or less

(d) 21,426 (94.7 per cent.) were answered in eight weeks or less

(e) 21,910 (96.8 per cent.) were answered in 10 weeks or less

(f) 643 (2.8 per cent.) took more than 10 weeks to answer.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the increase in the number of scientific procedures carried out on *(a)* goats and *(b)* sheep between 2004 and 2006; which establishments accounted for the greatest amount of that increase; and if she will make a statement. [154410]

Meg Hillier: The number of scientific procedures carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 using goats and sheep for the past three years is shown in the following table.

As the table shows, the principal increase in procedures involving both goats and sheep in 2006 arose in connection with the study of fundamental biological disease.

It is Home Office policy not to publish the names of designated establishments licensed under the 1986 Act for health and safety reasons.

	Procedures			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*Purpose*
Sheep	6,670	5,650	11,601	Fundamental biological disease
	567	472	485	Applied studies-human medicine or dentistry
	13,141	3,719	2,495	Applied studies-veterinary study
	0	10	8	Protection of man, animals or environment
	5	5	1	Education
	3	3	0	Forensic enquiries
	20,868	19,411	21,746	Direct diagnosis
	29	59	41	Breeding
Total	41,283	29,329	36,377	
Goats	322	289	502	Fundamental biological disease
	43	19	20	Applied studies-human medicine or dentistry
	24	8	15	Applied studies-veterinary study
	4	3	2	Protection of man, animals or environment
	2	11	10	Direct diagnosis
Total	395	330	549	

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to assess the effectiveness of legislation on licensing of animal experimentation. [154382]

Meg Hillier: The use of animals in experiments and other scientific procedures is regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which puts into effect, and in some ways exceeds, European Union Directive 86/609/EEC. The 1986 Act provides a strong regulatory framework balancing the need to protect animals from unnecessary suffering with the legitimate requirements of the scientific community, and the public, for medical and other essential research and testing.

The operation of the 1986 Act has been regularly reviewed since it first came into force. Full-scale reviews have been carried out by the Animal Procedures Committee which published its 10 year review of the operation of the Act in 1998, and by the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures which reported in July 2002. In addition, specific aspects of the operation of the 1986 Act have been reviewed at various times by the Animal Procedures Committee, which is required under section 20 of the Act to advise the Secretary of State on matters concerned with Act and her functions under it. The Animal Procedures Committee has, for example, in the last five years, reviewed the use and acquisition of non-human primates, the cost benefit assessment of the use of animals in research, the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals published under section 21 of the Act, modular training for licence applicants and schedule 1 to the Act dealing with appropriate methods of humane killing

In due course, the current revision of Directive 86/609 will provide a further opportunity to review the regulation of animal experiments.

Asylum: Sri Lanka

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department last reviewed the safety of returning Tamil asylum claimants to Sri Lanka. [154571]

Jacqui Smith: Each asylum and human rights application made by a Sri Lankan national is, as with all other nationalities, considered individually against the background of current information from a wide range of well-recognised sources about the situation in Sri Lanka. Those who are found not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK, may return voluntarily to any region of Sri Lanka. Where an individual does not return voluntarily, removal may be enforced. Enforced removals will only be undertaken where we are satisfied the individual has no protection needs.

Bicycles: Confiscation

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bicycles have been confiscated from offenders under the provisions of the Police Reform Act 2002. [156465]

Mr. Coaker: None: the Police Reform Act allows the seizure, in appropriate circumstances, of motor vehicles only.

British Transport Police

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Government Departments provide funding for the British Transport Police. [156353]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have been asked to reply.

Revenue funding for the force is provided by the industry. The Department for Transport is providing £7.5 million for capital expenditure this financial year and the force receives money from the Home Office for specific initiatives.

Community Support Officers: Young People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness and suitability of under-18 year olds serving as police community support officers; and if she will make a statement. [155645]

Mr. McNulty: Police community support officers (PCSOs) are employed as police staff and as such are bound by standard employment regulations. It is for individual chief officers in each force to determine whether a person is suitable, capable and adequately trained to undertake the role of PCSO.

The Home Office will be working with senior colleagues in the service to make sure current guidance is sufficient to ensure that only those who are capable of performing the role serve as PCSOs.

Crime: Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of crimes reported to the police in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* North Yorkshire in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available were cleared up. [155493]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Detection statistics at police force area level for 2006-07 were published on 20 September 2007. They show a clear up rate of 28 per cent. for Yorkshire and the Humber region and 33 per cent. for North Yorkshire. Changes to the offence coverage in 1998, the detections guidance in 1999 and the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002 mean that data for 1997 are not directly comparable with that for 2006-07. In 1997, the clear up rate was 26 per cent. for both Yorkshire and the Humber region and North Yorkshire.

Crime: South West Region

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded crimes of each type there were in *(a)* Devon and Cornwall, *(b)* the south-west and *(c)* England and Wales in 2006-07. [156358]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is published in Table 6.05 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2006-07'. A copy is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107chap2.xls

Crimes of Violence: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the figures were for *(a)* violent crime and *(b)* gun crime in Suffolk in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [155779]

Mr. Coaker: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. Once such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

There were 2,448 offences of violence against the person recorded in Suffolk in 1997 and 10,190 offences recorded in 2006-07, the latest year for which statistics are available. The introduction of expanded coverage in 1998 and the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002 resulted in an artificial increase in recorded offences of violence against the person and figures for the two years are therefore not directly comparable.

There were 17 firearms offences (excluding air weapons) in Suffolk in 1997 and 58 in 2005-06, the latest year for which data are available.

Driving Offences

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to tackle the incidence of driving off without payment offences in relation to petrol retail. [156232]

Mr. Coaker: It remains an offence under the Theft Act 1978 to make off without paying for goods with intent to avoid payment. However, changes were made in April 2005 to Home Office counting rules reflecting concerns expressed by police forces about the lack of consistency among forces in recording allegations of making off without payment offences.

Many police forces continue to work with industry to reduce this type of problem and initiatives such as 'Forecourt watch' and self-reporting packages have proved very successful in terms of improving security and reducing crime.

The British Oil Security Syndicate (BOSS) continue to make a valuable contribution in partnership with local police and petrol retailers to reduce this type of offence.

Forced Marriage

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of offences related to forced marriage were investigated in each of the last five years by each police force in England and Wales. [155517]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Home Office does not collect this information and it is not routinely collected by the police, as there is no specific offence of forced marriage. Offences related to forced marriage can range from common assault, false imprisonment and kidnapping, to murder.

The Association of Chief Police Officers has published guidance for police forces on identifying, assessing and managing risk in domestic violence cases, and separate guidance on dealing with cases of forced marriage. In addition, the Crown Prosecution Service is currently undertaking pilots in four areas (Lancashire, London, West Midlands and West Yorkshire) to investigate the prosecution of forced marriage and so-called honour-based violence cases. All cases in these pilot areas will be flagged and monitored from July 2007 to March 2008.

Foreign Workers: Care Homes

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued to senior care workers in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [149343]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals for senior care workers from non-EU states in period 2005 -2006. Data prior to 2005 are not available.

	Approvals
2005	1,870
2006	5,690

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Foreign Workers: Health Professions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses and auxiliary nurses from non-EU states in (i) 2006 and (ii) each of the preceding 10 years. [149263]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses from non-EU states in the period 1999 to 2006. Data prior to 1999 are not available. There have been no approvals for auxiliary nurses.

	Doctor	*Nurse*	*Total*
1999	170	2,430	2,600
2000	580	15,130	15,710
2001	1,805	24,355	26,160
2002	3,120	28,740	31,855
2003	3,820	29,590	33,410
2004	4,690	29,180	33,875
2005	4,070	22,670	26,740
2006	3,830	13,685	17,520
Total	22,090	165,780	187,870

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding figures may not add up to the totals.

The figures quoted are 'not' provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Genetics: Databases

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to update the national DNA database to include full postal addresses of every person who has been added onto the database. [154364]

Meg Hillier: None. The purpose of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is to hold a record of a person's DNA which can be matched against DNA taken from crime scenes. If there is a match the police are notified and make further inquiries. The NDNAD holds the person's name, date of birth, ethnic appearance, gender, a link to any record on the police national computer, and information about the police force which took the sample. This is sufficient for the police to be able to contact the person if required. It is not necessary for the NDNAD itself to hold the person's postal address.

The address someone is living at when a DNA sample is taken from them will of course become outdated when they move, so adding this address would impose extra work on the police for the sake of information which in many cases would soon become out of date. In order to keep address information accurate, it would be necessary to monitor changes of address of the 4 million people on the database. This would be expensive and intrusive without adding anything useful to police operations.

Genocide: Rwanda

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with her French and Belgian counterparts on the search for and prosecution of suspected Rwandan genocidaires residing in those countries; [153428]

(2) what steps she is taking to encourage other EU Governments to arrest suspected Rwandan genocidaires residing in their countries; [153429]

(3) what discussions she has had with EU counterparts about procedures for extradition to Rwanda of suspected Rwandan genocidaires residing in Europe. [153430]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* It is for each member state to determine, in accordance with its own laws, what action might be appropriate in particular cases. Regular discussions, however, are held with EU counterparts, both at ministerial and official level, about a range of judicial cooperation issues including, from time to time, about bringing to justice alleged genocidaires from Rwanda. No one fleeing prosecution in that country should expect to find safe haven or to enjoy impunity within the EU. That is why the Government have entered into special extradition arrangements with Rwanda in respect of four cases currently before the courts.

Identity Cards: Channel Islands and the Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether compulsory identity cards will be introduced in *(a)* Jersey, *(b)* Guernsey and *(c)* Isle of Man simultaneously with the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [155808]

Meg Hillier: There are no provisions in the Identity Cards Act 2006 to make it compulsory to have an identity card and to do so would require further primary legislation.

As with previous legislation on identity cards, the Government would consult the Administrations of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man as and when further primary legislation on identity cards was being prepared.

Lisbon Agenda

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policies her Department has adopted to assist the United Kingdom's fulfilment of the Lisbon Agenda criteria. [155839]

Meg Hillier: The Government fully supports the aims of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. Reforms across EU member states consistent with the Strategy to boost productivity and skills, expanding participation in the labour market and increasing social inclusion, are key parts of the response to the challenges and opportunities of globalisation.

In line with the aims of the Lisbon Strategy, the Government are pursuing a comprehensive programme of long-term structural reform to deliver strong and sustainable economic performance and employment growth, including addressing specific skills shortages through its managed migration policy. This is set out in the UK National Reform programme, progress against which the Government reports on annually. The most recent progress report was published in September and is available in the Library of the House and on the website of HM Treasury.

Official Visits: European Union

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what official visits she is planning to European Union member states in the next six months. [155840]

Meg Hillier: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has recently returned from Portugal where she attended the informal meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council. Over the coming months she plans to visit Poland for a meeting of the G6 Interior Ministers to discuss cooperation in the areas of counter terrorism, organised crime and immigration; and Germany for a G6 counter terrorism symposium. She is also currently considering a visit to France.

In addition, the JHA Council will be meeting in Brussels in November, December and February 2008, and in Slovenia in January 2008. Ministerial attendance at those meetings will be determined in the light of the individual agendas. Home Office Ministers are also planning visits to Ireland, Germany and Belgium before the end of the year. There may be other visits or EU meetings, attendance at which will be considered against the pursuit of Home Office aims.

Police

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for a Royal Commission on policing; and if she will make a statement. [156697]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have no plans to set up a Royal Commission on policing.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend have been the subject of complaints in each year since 1997; how many of these have been the subject of local resolution. [156569]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected by the Home Office. This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much extra funding will be provided by the Government for policing provision during the Labour Party conference in Bournemouth. [156022]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office provide special grant to police authorities to pay for the additional costs of policing the main annual party conferences.

Dorset police submitted a bid of £4.5 million (revenue) plus £80,000 (capital) for the additional costs of policing the 2007 Labour Party autumn conference which has been approved.

Police: Pay

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the current formula for determining the annual pay of police officers. [156698]

Mr. McNulty: It is important that pay arrangements for the police are both fair and affordable, for the taxpayer as well as the police service. This is why the Government asked Sir Clive Booth to conduct a review of police pay. His recommendations were published in a written ministerial statement on 21 February 2007, and they recommended an interim index linking increases in police officer pay to increases in the public sector. This was the basis of the 2007 pay offer to police officers. The Government made clear in their ministerial statement of 21 February that Sir Clive Booth's recommendations would be taken forward through the Police Negotiation Board (PNB). We are disappointed that the PNB failed to reach agreement. The matter has now been referred to the Police Arbitration Tribunal. Before my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary makes her decision on the police pay award for 2007, she will consider very carefully the recommendations that result from this process.

Police: Security

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security alerts were dealt with by police in each police force area in each of the last 10 years? [156476]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally by the Home Office and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police: South West Region

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100,000 of the general population in (i) Devon and Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in (A) 2006 and (B) 2007. [156316]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales", copies of which are available online and are in the Library of the House.

The available data are given in the tables.

Total police officers (FTE)[1] for Devon and Cornwall force, South West region and England as at 31 March 2006 and 2007

As at 31 March each year	Devon and Cornwall	South West	England
2006	3,540	11,024	133,924
2007	3,523	11,006	134,265

[1] Full-time equivalent strength figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Total police officers per 100,000[1] population for Devon and Cornwall force, South West region and England as at 31 March 2006 and 2007

As at 31 March each year	Devon and Cornwall	South West	England
2006	219	219	267
2007	216	217	266

[1] Based on full-time equivalent strength figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Ports: Immigration Officers

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 35 main ports of entry to the UK were staffed 24 hours a day by immigration officials in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2006. [156308]

Jacqui Smith: Of the 35 main ports of entry, there are 19 ports in the UK and in juxtaposed locations which are staffed 24 hours a day. A further 16 have staff based there during operating hours. Other ports are staffed on a regular basis to cover scheduled services with all remaining points of entry attended on a risk assessed basis or in response to specific intelligence.

Terrorism Act 2000

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* assessment has been made of and *(b)* guidance her Department has issued on the use of section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 by the Metropolitan Police Service. [156011]

Mr. McNulty: In spring 2007, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) carried out a review of its use of stop and search powers under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. One of the recommendations was to continue to apply appropriately for the authority. Another recommendation was to raise public awareness about the powers. As part of that commendation, the MPS are publishing stop and search figures for each London

borough on a monthly basis. Lord Carlile of Berriew also assesses the use of section 44 in his capacity as Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation.

National guidance for the police on the use of section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 was published in July 2006 by the National Centre for Policing Excellence. One of the key aims of the guidance was to set out a framework for the use of section 44 powers to ensure that they are used appropriately by officers on the ground. In August 2006, the Home Office produced a circular for the police on the use of section 44. This included a requirement for the authorising officer to provide details of the community impact assessment made prior to authorising the powers.

Vehicles: Insurance

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were seized as uninsured vehicles in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many of those were subsequently destroyed or scrapped. [156320]

Mr. Coaker: The police power is to seize vehicles driven by someone without appropriate insurance. Information on the number of vehicles seized is not recorded centrally.

Wiltshire Constabulary

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs were of *(a)* interpretation and *(b)* translation in connection with police work by the Wiltshire Constabulary in each of the five most required foreign languages in each of the last five years. [156721]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the Chief Officer and the Police Authority.

Work Permits

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications from employers for work permits were waiting for processing to be completed on *(a)* 1 March and *(b)* 1 September; and what the average time was between (i) initial receipt of the application and despatch from the payment processing facility and (ii) completion of the payment processing and approval of the work permit on each of those dates. [155639]

Mr. Byrne: The number of work permit applications awaiting an initial decision was 4,658 on 1 March 2007 and was 3,508 on 1 September 2007.

Work permit applications received at the payment processing centre before 1.30 pm are delivered to the Border and Immigration Agency the same day. Those received later are delivered the next working day.

For the six- month period prior to 1 March 2007 it took an average eight calendar days from receipt at the Border and Immigration Agency to complete a work permit application and for the six-month period prior to 1 September 2007 it took an average of 10 calendar days.

All the above figures exclude those applications that had been initially refused but which were being reconsidered on review at these dates.

he figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people who were granted a UK work permit in 2000 subsequently *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted settlement. [156305]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Although information on both work permits and grants of settlement are provided in the Home Office Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006", it is not possible to directly cross reference between the data as the basis for calculation is different.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Overseas Trade: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of international trade in *(a)* goods and *(b)* services for the Yorkshire and the Humber region in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available; and what percentage of gross domestic product in each year each figure represents. [155273]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* HM Revenue and Customs publishes a regional breakdown for trade in goods going back to 2000. Their figure for 2000 for exports of goods from Yorkshire and the Humber was £8.8 billion compared with £12.7 billion in 2006; the 2006 figure may have been affected by transactions associated with missing trader VAT fraud. In 2000 this was about 14.5 per cent. of regional gross value added; regional GVA figures for 2006 are not yet available, but the comparable figure is likely to be about 15.4 per cent. For imports of goods, equivalent figures are £10.7 billion and 17.6 per cent. in 2000, and £14.1 billion and 17.1 per cent. in 2006. Similar data for regional trade in services are not available.

Post Offices: Disadvantaged

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether alternative locations for post offices that Royal Mail propose for closure will be required to comply with disability discrimination legislation; and if he will make a statement. [155604]

Mr. McFadden: Disability access to Crown post offices is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. acting in compliance with the requirements of the disability discrimination legislation.

Supermarkets: Ethics

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask the Competition Commission to inquire into whether practices of UK supermarkets involve significant exploitation of workers in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [152605]

Mr. Thomas: The Government do not request the Competition Commission to undertake inquiries except in certain, limited circumstances. Ensuring that markets operate freely and fairly is not a matter for the Government, but is for the independent competition authorities.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has asked the CC to investigate if any features of this market prevent, restrict or distort competition and if so, what action might be taken to remedy these. The CC has a statutory requirement to report within two years of a reference to them by the OFT. It is required to publish its final report by 8 May 2008, but is aiming to do so by October 2007. The CC expects to publish its emerging thinking for consultation on 23 January. The current timetable for the inquiry can be found at:

www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/ref2006/grocery/core_timetable.htm

The CC investigation is not limited to considering only the issues that the OFT has identified, and any issues should be raised direct with them.

Wind Power: Greenbelt

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many domestic wind turbines were granted planning permission on land designated as green belt for each of the previous three years for which figures are available. [156572]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: North East Region

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many arts organisations in *(a)* Stockton on Tees and *(b)* the North East received Arts Council England North East funding in each of the last 10 years. [149968]

Margaret Hodge: The table shows the amount of arts organisations in Stockton on Tees and the North East in receipt of Arts Council funding for each of the last 10 years.

Figures for the North East prior to 1999-2000 relate to arts organisations receiving lottery funding distributed by the Arts Council. From 1999-2000 the figures for the North East include regularly funded organisations. This is because prior to the merger of the Regional Arts Boards in 2003-04 to create Arts Council England, each region managed its funding records independently.

	Stockton on Tees	*North East*
1997-98	7	215
1998-99	1	48
1999-2000	3	129
2000-01	5	180
2001-02	6	195
2002-03	3	143
2003-04	11	270
2004-05	9	229
2005-06	11	231
2006-07	9	218

BBC Trust: Public Appointments

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consider introducing *(a)* pre-appointment parliamentary scrutiny and *(b)* confirmation hearings for future appointments to the BBC Trust. [156454]

James Purnell *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: BBC Trust appointments are among those regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. We believe the scrutiny afforded by existing arrangements, which include the involvement of an OCPA trained independent assessor throughout, is sufficient. We do not therefore plan to consider introducing pre-appointment parliamentary scrutiny or confirmation hearings for future appointments to the BBC Trust.

This is consistent with proposals set out in the Government Green Paper "The Governance of Britain" (July 2007), which accepts there are a number of positions in which Parliament has a particularly strong interest because the office holder exercises statutory or other powers in relation to protecting the public's rights and interests. The Government believe that Parliament, through its Select Committees, may play a valuable role where such appointments are not subject to oversight by the Commissioner for Public Appointments or other form of independent scrutiny.

Big Lottery Fund: Voluntary Organisations

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many voluntary organisations which were formerly funded from single regeneration budgets have bid for Big Lottery funding in each year for which figures are available; and how many have been successful in each year. [155793]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Culture: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government spent on *(a)* the arts, *(b)* sport and *(c)* heritage in each year since 1997. [155768]

James Purnell: The following table shows how much the Department for Culture, Media and Sport spent on the arts, sport and heritage from 1997 to 2007-08.

	Sector		
	Arts	*Sport*	*Heritage*
1997-98	196.4	50.1	155.8
1998-99	199.7	49.4	149.1
1999-2000	229.8	51.6	145.6
2000-01	238.8	52.6	149.7
2001-02	252.9	64.5	142.0
2002-03	291.2	109.8	156.7
2003-04	326.6	78.9	156.3
2004-05	370.5	111.5	169.0
2005-06	410.4	117.5	165.1
2006-07	430.2	168.7	188.4
2007-08	420.3	186.4	190.7

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155879]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants are employed by his Department, broken down by policy area. [148539]

Margaret Hodge: The requested information is in the following table:

Policy area	*Number of staff*	*Number of staff (FTE)*
Architecture, Historic Environment	31	30.4
Sports	35	34.6
Arts	21	20.8
Creative Industries Division	19	18.8
Active Generation Team	5	4.5
Tourism	30	29.9
Lottery, Communities and International	27	25.6
Museums, Libraries and Cultural Property Unit	31	31
Gambling and National Lottery Licensing	18	18
Broadcasting Policy	32	32
Humanitarian Assistance Unit	7	7
Government Art Collection	14	13.5
Government Olympic Executive	46	44.8
Olympic Games Board Secretariat	6	6
Total	322	316.9

Notes:
1. The remaining 205 staff work in Human Resources, Finance and Planning, Strategy, Private Office, Communications and Directorate support.
2. The department is planning to reduce its headcount by around 70 FTE by 2011.
3. The Culture, Creativity and Economy Group deals with a range of subjects; Arts, Architecture, Heritage, Creative Industries, Sports, Museums, Libraries, Broadcasting Policy, Tourism, National Lottery and Gambling Licensing and Tourism.
4. Corporate Services covers Human Resources, Finance and Planning, Strategy and Private Office.

Digital Broadcasting: Broadcasting Reception

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households which are capable of receiving a high quality and reliable analogue television signal but will not be capable of receiving a fully reliable digital television signal after digital switchover in *(a)* Argyll and Bute, *(b)* the STV region and *(c)* the UK. [152466]

James Purnell *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* At the time of switchover (which will be in 2010 for the STV region) digital terrestrial coverage across the whole of the UK should substantially match that which the present analogue service achieves—that is, 98.5 per cent. of households. Although we do not have information on coverage for individual constituencies, Ofcom estimates that around 97 per cent. of households in the STV North region and around 99.4 per cent. in STV Central region will be capable of receiving a high quality and robust signal after digital switchover. Unfortunately, estimates of analogue coverage are not available.

Digital Broadcasting: Sight Impaired

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department will be making any funds available to blind and partially-sighted persons to purchase new equipment to enable them to use teletext once the analogue signal has been switched off. [156192]

James Purnell: The Digital Switchover Help Scheme will ensure that households where at least one person is registered blind or registered partially-sighted will be provided with the appropriate equipment to convert one TV set and, where necessary, the relevant help to install and use such equipment and an aerial installation. Help will be free to eligible households in receipt of income support, jobseeker's allowance or pension credit. Other households will be asked to contribute £40 towards the cost of support.

Where the eligible household opts for the digital terrestrial platform, the scheme will provide a set top converter box which meets the scheme's core receiver requirement. This incorporates a number of features, such as audio description, which will be of benefit to blind and partially sighted people. There is no requirement for the scheme to enable audio access to digital text

services. The Consumer Expert Group, which includes the RNIB and SENSE were consulted on the scheme requirements. The core receiver requirements, which take costs into account, will be kept under regular review.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the requirements for set-top boxes provided by the Digital Switchover Help Scheme include an on/off button; and if he will make a statement. [151255]

James Purnell *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The Core Receiver Requirements for digital switchover Help Scheme equipment state that any digital receiver provided as part of the scheme shall have a power switch in an easily accessible position with which the receiver can be placed into its lowest possible consumption mode (e.g. standby). The requirements also require that a corresponding function should be included in the design of the remote control for such receivers.

Set-top boxes remain on low power standby rather than being switched off completely when not in use, in order to allow them to receive important over-the-air downloads (for example, to rescan for frequency changes), in a way which causes minimum disruption for the viewer, at very low levels of energy consumption.

Gambling: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether advertising of gambling-related activities at televised sports events during children's television viewing hours will be permitted under the proposed Committee of Advertising Practice and Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice gambling advertising rules. [148535]

James Purnell: Under the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) and Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) new codes of practice, which came into effect on 1 September, there are strict controls in place about the content and scheduling of gambling advertisements and restrictions on advertising during and around children's programmes or programmes commissioned for, principally directed at or likely to appeal particularly to children.

In addition to the CAP and BCAP codes, the gambling industry has introduced a voluntary 9 pm watershed on all broadcast gambling advertising, with an exception for bingo and lottery advertisements which are already permitted and sports betting advertising around sports events, as part of their social responsibility code on gambling advertising.

National Lottery: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by each of the National Lottery distributors. [155766]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and it has not been possible to collate the data requested in the time available. Some of the information requested is already in the public domain, in distributor's annual reports.

National Lottery: Public Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each National Lottery distributor spent on public affairs and public relations activities in the last period for which figures are available. [155765]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and it has not been possible to collate the data requested in the time available. Some of the information requested is already in the public domain, in national lottery distributor's annual reports.

Sports: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the 10,000 voluntary community sports coaches announced on 24 September are *(a)* additional to and *(b)* distinct from the young volunteers trained to work in schools and community clubs and trained adult mentors announced as part of the Game Plan strategy in 2003; and if he will make a statement. [156279]

James Purnell: The 10,000 voluntary Community Sports Coaches announced on the 24 September will be additional to and distinct from the young volunteers and leaders supported by the Step into Sport scheme which is part of the National School Sport Strategy.

Game Plan was published as a strategy document in December 2002. The Government have used it to inform their policy on sport where appropriate.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) from which areas the 10,000 voluntary community sports coaches, announced on 24 September, will be recruited; [156280]

(2) when he expects the 10,000 voluntary community sports coaches, announced on 24 September, to *(a)* be recruited and *(b)* begin their coaching activities; and what steps his Department plans to take to (i) encourage, (ii) monitor and (iii) audit and account for progress with this initiative; [156281]

(3) which national governing bodies will be responsible for recruiting the 10,000 voluntary community sports coaches announced on 24 September; how much each such body will receive; how much of the £5 million announced for the initiative will be allocated to *(a)* Sports Coach UK and *(b)* Sport England; and when the funding will be made available to each responsible body. [156282]

James Purnell: We are working on detailed plans with Sport England, Youth Sport Trust and sports coach UK to start the recruitment of 10,000 volunteer sports coaches from April 2008, in the most deprived areas.

Written Questions

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to answer question *(a)* 148539 on civil servants and *(b)* 148535 on advertising: gambling, tabled by the hon. Member for Bath on 4 July 2007. [156248]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Both questions were answered on 3 October.

TRANSPORT

A1: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the removal of six roundabouts on the A1 in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. [156690]

Mr. Tom Harris: Construction work has commenced at all six roundabout junctions, with the most significant progress being made at Blyth, Apleyhead and Gonerby Moor.

Overall project completion is expected in early 2009. This is slightly later than originally programmed due to the effects of the wet weather during the summer and refocusing traffic management to minimise the impact of the works on the travelling public.

Biofuels

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* volume and *(b)* proportion of biofuels used in England was (i) imported and (ii) produced domestically in each of the last five years; what the equivalent estimated figures are for each year up to 2010; and what impact this had upon reducing carbon emissions from vehicles. [154745]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total quantities of biofuels released for consumption in the UK are available via the HM Revenue and Customs website at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil. Annual figures are summarised in the following table. Information on the carbon savings associated with these biofuels is not available.

Annual quantities of biofuels released for consumption in the UK and estimated carbon savings

Millions of litres

	Biodiesel	*Bioethanol*
2002	3	0
2003	19	0
2004	21	0
2005	33	85
2006	169	95

Provisional figures suggest that the total quantity of biofuel released for consumption over the first eight months of 2007 amounted to some 318 million litres, or around 1 per cent. of total road transport fuel sales. The Government do not hold precise data on the origin of these fuels, and information on the carbon savings associated with them is not available. All of the bioethanol over the period in question was imported, whereas a significant amount of the biodiesel was produced in the UK. During 2006 and 2007, however, imports of biodiesel rose sharply.

The Government are due to introduce a Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) in April 2008. This should create a demand for around 1 billion litres of biofuel in 2008, rising to around 1.75 billion litres in 2009 and 2.5 billion litres in 2010. We anticipate that this demand will be met by both imported and domestically produced biofuels. The carbon savings will depend on a number of factors, including the carbon intensity of the biofuels transport fuel suppliers choose to source. The RTFO's reporting requirements are designed to provide a strong incentive for transport fuel suppliers to source sustainable, low-carbon biofuels.

The Government have also announced that from 2010-11 they aim to reward biofuels under the RTFO according to the amount of carbon they save. This should provide greater certainty over the level of carbon savings that the biofuels should deliver. Further details are set out in an informal policy paper which is available via this Department's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/.

British Transport Police: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the British Transport Police. [154134]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN

E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what accounts directions were issued by her Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156645]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000, HM Treasury issue accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 Department for Transport has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

2005-06

Civil Aviation Authority
British Transport Police
Trinity House
Northern Lighthouse Board
Commissioners of Irish Lights
Passenger Focus

2006-07

Civil Aviation Authority
British Transport Police

Trinity House
Northern Lighthouse Board
Commissioners of Irish Lights
Passenger Focus

East Coast Railway Line: Franchises

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to ensure that the successful bidder for the Inter City East Coast franchise includes in their operations a major commitment to environmental sustainability; and what measures have been taken to ensure that such a commitment is an objective when awarding other new rail franchise contracts. [155729]

Mr. Tom Harris: Bidders for the Inter City East Coast franchise were required to set out plans for measuring and reducing the environmental impact of their rail activities. They also had to address the main environmental impacts of rail operation, (carbon emissions, air quality and noise); to take account of the need to conserve resources; and to reduce waste and the contamination of water and land. The winning bidder committed, among other initiatives, to reduce fuel consumption per passenger kilometre by 28 per cent. over the franchise term and to invest £400,000 to reduce energy use at stations and depots.

Great Western Trains

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many extra carriages First Great Western will receive out of the recently announced national total of 1,300; and what change there has been in the number of carriages on the First Great Western franchise since 1997. [155787]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to provide details on the nature and deployment on the balance of the new rolling stock. The bulk of this will be agreed with the rail industry following publication in November of the industry proposals to deliver the high level output specification. The Department for Transport will publish a rolling stock plan in January 2008.

Details on the number of carriages operated by individual franchises in the past are not held by the Department.

Lorries: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicle annual safety tests were conducted by VOSA in each financial year since 2000-01; and what percentage of heavy goods vehicles failed *(a)* initial and *(b)* final safety test in each financial year. [155985]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many heavy goods vehicle annual safety tests were conducted by VOSA in each financial year since 2000-01; and what percentage of heavy goods vehicles failed *(a)* initial and *(b)* final safety test in each financial year in its Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* private cars and light vehicles, *(b)* motorcycles, *(c)* public service vehicles, *(d)* trailers for heavy goods vehicles and *(e)* heavy goods vehicles were recalled on safety grounds in each financial year since 2000-01. [156052]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed in April 2003. VOSA is responsible for the publication of vehicle safety recalls. Its records indicate:

	Private cars and light vehicles	*Heavy goods vehicles*	*Commercial, trailers*	*Motorcycles*	*Public service vehicles*
2003	134,407	62,513	726	13,775	2,800
2004	764,336	80,030	4,134	36,708	2,384
2005	1,007,345	71,681	4,311	45,650	12,843
2006	923,867	53,692	195	45,108	4,026

Please note, although the above number of vehicles have been recalled, they may not have proved to be defective. VOSA's figures are recorded by calendar year not financial year. To break these figures down into financial year would result in disproportionate costs.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* class 3 and 4 vehicles and *(b)* goods vehicles between 3 tonne and 3.5 tonne gross weight took an MOT test in each financial year since 2001; and how many and what percentage failed in each year. [156051]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many *(a)* class 3 and 4 vehicles and *(b)* goods vehicles between 3 tonne and 3.5 tonne gross weight took an MOT test in each financial year since 2001; and how many and what percentage failed in each year in its effectiveness report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* grade 7 equivalent and above managers, *(b)* testers, *(c)* vehicle inspectors and *(d)* vehicle examiners were employed in (i) the Vehicle

Inspectorate and (ii) the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each financial year since 2000-01. [156053]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed in April 2003. The following table indicates the number of posts it had for the roles requested, as at 1 April of each year.

	Grade7+	*Tester*	*Vehicle inspector*	*Vehicle examiner*
2003	40	121	401	494
2004	43	110	427	542
2005	46	94	424	556
2006	53	80	417	524
2007	55	66	397	502

Figures prior to 2003 for the Vehicle Inspectorate could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Similar information on staff numbers was published in the Vehicle Inspectorates Annual Reports, a copy of which was placed in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many MOT vehicle testing stations are in operation. [156057]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of approved MOT garages at 1 October 2007 was 18,950.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many MOT vehicle testing stations were routinely inspected (as opposed to having a targeted inspection) to ensure that they complied with safety and other requirements in each financial year since 2000-01. [156058]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many MOT vehicle testing stations were routinely inspected (as opposed to having a targeted inspection) to ensure that they complied with safety and other requirements in each financial year since 2003 in its Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section. Any figures prior to 2003 can be found in The Vehicles Inspectorate report in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the MOT Enforcement Transformation programme is; how MOT vehicle testing stations will be classified in the future; what safety checking regimes are for each class of MOT vehicle testing station; and how it was determined that the new checking regimes will work effectively. [156059]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) MOT Enforcement Transformation programme supports the delivery of a number of its strategic objectives to improve the quality and consistency of the private vehicle testing service to the public. Focussing on non-compliant MOT garages, the risk based programme aims to improve MOT testing standards and operational efficiency.

Similarly to the existing Operator Compliance Risk Score (OCRS) system, MOT garages will be classified as Red, Amber or Green.

VOSA monitor MOT garage safety through:

analysis of the MOT database,

intelligence received,

MOT Appeals,

random and targeted re-inspection of vehicles, and

mystery shopper exercises.

VOSA trialled the risk based approach for 100 MOT garages in the Midlands area from June—October 2006. Analysis of the trial results demonstrated that the risk scoring mechanism is an effective method of predicting actual non-compliance by an MOT garage.

Office of Rail Regulation: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the Office of Rail Regulation. [154430]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation has 1.5 full-time equivalent press officers.

Public Service Vehicles: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public service vehicle (PSV) annual safety tests were conducted by VOSA in each financial year since 2000-01; and how many PSVs failed their *(a)* initial and *(b)* final safety test in each financial year. [155986]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many public service vehicle (PSV) annual safety tests were conducted by VOSA in each financial year since 2000-01; and how many PSVs failed their *(a)* initial and *(b)* final safety test in each financial year in its Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public service vehicles (PSVs) failed their final safety test for a reason relating to their *(a)* steering mechanisms and *(b)* braking systems; and what percentage of the number of tests conducted by VOSA on PSVs in each financial year each figure represents. [155987]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many public service vehicles (PSVs) failed their final safety test for a reason relating to their *(a)* steering mechanisms and *(b)* braking systems; and what percentage of the number of tests conducted by VOSA on PSVs its effectiveness report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicles failed their final safety test for a reason connected to their *(a)* steering mechanisms and *(b)* braking systems; and

what percentage each figure represents of the number of tests conducted by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency on heavy goods vehicles in each year. [155988]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many heavy goods vehicles failed their final safety test for a reason connected to their *(a)* steering mechanisms and *(b)* braking systems; and what percentage each figure represents of the number of tests conducted by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency on heavy goods vehicles in each financial year in its effectiveness report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Railway Stations: Catering

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Network Rail on the provision of Fairtrade coffee at rail stations following the discontinuance of AMT's contract with Network Rail; and if she will make a statement. [156407]

Mr. Tom Harris: None. This is a commercial matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for further information relating to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Safety

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment she has made of safety at *(a)* manned and *(b)* unmanned mainline rail stations; [154743]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the merits of manned mainline rail stations during operating hours. [154744]

Mr. Tom Harris: Staffing levels at stations are a matter for the station operator to determine.

The Department has not made any recent assessments of safety and/or personal security at manned and unmanned mainline rail stations or on the merits of manned stations during operating hours. However, a national passenger survey is undertaken twice a year by Passenger Focus to assess how safe passengers feel at stations and on trains. In the most recent survey of over 21,000 passengers most people were satisfied with the level of safety and security provided at stations. Also, as part of the Secure Stations scheme accreditation process, a passenger survey is required to be undertaken to assess how safe passengers feel at the station.

Railways: Security

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions UK railway lines have been closed because of security alerts in each of the last 10 years. [156478]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Road Traffic Control: A249

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the average waiting times are during rush hour of vehicles on the A249 going to Maidstone from the Sittingbourne or Sheppey direction at the Junction 5 roundabout; [155917]

(2) how much the re-design and signalling of the Stockbury roundabout at Exit 5 of the M2 cost; [155918]

(3) what assessment the Highways Agency has made of the safety of Exit 5 of the M2. [155919]

Mr. Tom Harris: Through its watchman role, the Highways Agency continues to monitor the observed queues at junction 5 of the M2 during peak times but does not currently have a record of the average waiting times. Queuing is generally restricted to the A249 rather than the M2.

As a consequence of earlier monitoring, the Agency invested £252,626 between 2000-01 and 2003-04 in the re-design and signalling of the Stockbury roundabout.

Following this investment and further improvements in 2005, safety improved and the junction is now a relatively low priority in safety terms. The Agency continues to monitor the situation.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the current backlog of road maintenance is for strategic roads; what the estimated costs of removing the backlog are; and what the estimated time for removing the backlog is, broken down by region. [156520]

Mr. Tom Harris: There is no backlog of road maintenance for the strategic road network i.e. the English trunk roads. The network is maintained by applying whole life cost principles, and takes account of the fact that it is not practical or sustainable to maintain the whole network in an as new condition.

Roads: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what STATS19 returns are; and how they are used to generate road accident casualty figures. [155924]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The national collision statistical reporting form (commonly known as STATS19) is used to collect standard information, when a personal injury road accident is reported to the police. The information is

collected by the police at the scene of the accident or in a minority of cases it is reported on by a member of the public at a police station. Some 50 data items are collected for each accident, including the time, location and circumstances of the accident, the vehicles involved and some information on each casualty. After processing this information is then forwarded by each police force (via local processing authorities in the case of some forces) to the Department electronically and entered into a database. The data are checked, analysed and detailed results published annually in "Road Casualties Great Britain". In addition quarterly estimates of casualties are published, based on provisional data returns.

The current data collection system was set up in 1979 following a wide ranging review. The statistics are used to inform public debate on matters of road safety and to provide the basis for determining and monitoring road safety policy at the local and national level. National and local government and local police forces work closely to achieve an agreed national reporting standard. The form is subject to quinquennial reviews which consider any amendments that may be required. Changes are agreed by the Steering Committee on Road Accidents Statistics (SCRAS) which was set up in 1977 to oversee the process for road accident data collection. The membership of the committee is drawn from a wide range of bodies and includes representatives of central government, local government and the police.

A copy of the current form used by the police (introduced January 2005) can be found on page 173 in "Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report", published on 27 September 2007. Copies of this report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Shipping: Oil

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ban ship-to-ship oil transfer in the Firth of Forth; what recent assessment the Government has made of the risks to the environment of spillage from such transfers; what contingency plans are in place for such circumstances in the area; and if she will make a statement. [156265]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has no plans to introduce legislation banning ship-to-ship oil transfer in the Firth of Forth.

The Department has not made any recent assessment of the risks to the environment of spillage from ship-to-ship transfers. However, when a ship-to-ship transfer is being considered, we expect the responsible authority to carry out an assessment which takes account of the risks involved.

The following relevant contingency plans are in place for the Firth of Forth:

Oil Spill Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Ship-to-Ship Transfer (approved August 2006)

Clearwater Forth Plan (approved August 2006).

Stretch Limousines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her timetable is for the introduction of policy guidelines for stretch limousines; and if she will make a statement. [155747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department intends to publish guidance on stretch limousines by January.

Taxis

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projections have been made of the number of taxi drivers that will be operating in London for each of the next five years. [153877]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are currently 24,500 licensed taxi drivers in London. Transport for London indicates that, assuming the upward trend in the number of taxi drivers continues, this is likely to rise to 25,500 by 2012.

Transport Direct

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* original estimated and *(b)* outturn cost was of Transport Direct. [154749]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The original budget for the Transport Direct Programme, which included the development and operation of the Transport Direct Portal among other things, was for the period of spending review 2002 (April 2003 to March 2006). Subsequent budgets for Transport Direct were allocated on an annual basis in spending review 2004 (April 2005 to March 2008) and will be allocated in comprehensive spending review 2007 (April 2008 to March 2011). The estimated and outturn cost of Transport Direct to March 2007 was:

Period	*Estimate*	*£ million Outturn*
2003-04 to 2005-06	57	45
2006-07	11	10

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* estimated and *(b)* outturn cost of the (i) development and (ii) running of the Transport Direct portal was in the last year. [154750]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In April 2006, Transport Direct became an operational business unit of the Department for Transport, with the budgets revised to reflect the maturity of the Transport Direct Portal and the reduced need for capital investment. The Transport Direct Portal Service encompasses the Transport Direct Portal Design, Build and Operate (DBO) contract, which covers both development and operation, and the data and services provided by other third parties that underpin the Transport Direct Portal. The estimated and outturn costs for the Transport Direct Portal Service for FY 2006-07 were:

Period FY 2006-07	*£ million*
Estimate	6.1
Outturn	5.9

These figures represent the total sums paid to the Atos Origin Consortium (the DBO contractor) for all aspects of the DBO contract and to other third-party providers of data and services to the Transport Direct Portal.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the value for money of the Transport Direct portal over the last 12 months. [154751]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The original business case for Transport Direct recorded three key value for money measures:

Achieve 1 million user sessions in the first year of service.

Achieve 10 million user sessions by the end of 2006.

10 per cent. of users reassess their travel habits as a result of the information provided by TD.

Of these measures:

The 1 millionth user session was achieved 10 months after soft-launch of the service (soft-launched in July 2004, achieved in May 2005)

The 10 millionth user session was recorded on 1 December 2006

On changing habitual behaviour the portal service includes a self-completion feedback questionnaire. The responses to the questionnaire suggested that for individuals who had made the journey before (about a third of the 2,034 respondents):

17 per cent. claimed they would change their route,

24 per cent. would change when they intended to travel.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many user sessions Transport Direct recorded in each month since June 2006; and what the weekly rate of user sessions was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [154753]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since June 2006 the following user sessions have been recorded on the Transport Direct portal. This includes user sessions generated by end-users accessing the portal using PC, DigiTV and mobile phones, and those generated by other systems accessing Transport Direct via a web service call. The use of web services to access Transport Direct was introduced in August 2006:

Month	*Total*
July 2006	697,000
August 2006	778,000
September 2006	746,000
October 2006	802,000
November 2006	951,000
December 2006	893,000
January 2007	983,000
February 2007	855,000
March 2007	954,000
April 2007	829,000
May 2007	940,000
June 2007	985,000
July 2007	1,082,000
August 2007	1,126,000
Total	12,621,000

The average weekly number of user sessions recorded during the six weeks ending 16 September is 254,000.

Vehicle Number Plates: Fraud

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate the Government have made of the numbers of cloned or false number plates being used on British roads. [156560]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of vehicles that are, or may have been, subject to vehicle cloning or fitting of false plates is not known. There is no estimate available.

Vehicle Number Plates: Theft

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of mandatory use of tamper-proof number plates to the reduction of vehicle registration plate theft; and if she will make a statement. [156231]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In February 2006 the DVLA adopted a voluntary standard for theft resistant number plates to provide consumers with an assurance that products meeting the standard had been subject to rigorous testing. The standard is supported by the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Officials from the Department have been in discussion with representatives of ACPO and the leading number plate manufacturers about the possibility of making theft resistant plates mandatory. It is recognised that the higher cost of theft resistant plates would impose a financial burden on industry and the general public and it will be necessary to draw up and evaluate an impact assessment before making a decision on whether to proceed further. There would also be a public consultation before any decision was made.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures have been implemented to improve casualty reporting in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [154257]

Derek Twigg: The casualty reporting and notification process has been co-ordinated by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) at RAF Innsworth since 2005 and all information is routed through it. Casualty reporting from Afghanistan and Iraq has been further streamlined by the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration system into these theatres in March 2007.

Casualty figures for Afghanistan and Iraq are now published twice-monthly a fortnight in arrears (previously monthly a month in arrears) and, in conjunction with JCCC, the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) has conducted an exercise to validate historical operational casualty data from January 2001 onwards. The results of their analysis, together with current Aeromedical Evacuation and hospital patient data, have been published on the internet at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

and

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

Furthermore, as I announced to the House on 25 July 2007, MOD has moved from a system of recording and reporting mental health statistics relating solely to Operation TELIC (Iraq) to a new system covering all in-service personnel assessed with a mental health disorder at our out-patient Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH). The report also includes a return for new in-patient admissions under the MOD's contract with the Priory Group. These are published quarterly by the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA), and the first report, for the period January—March 2007, is available on their website at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/pdfs/mentalHealth/report_JanMar07.pdf

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ark Royal are planned to be withdrawn from service with the fleet. [154397]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Our present planning assumption is that HMS Illustrious and HMS Ark Royal will be withdrawn from service in 2015 and 2012 respectively.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the intended in-service dates are of the new aircraft carriers. [154022]

Des Browne: As I announced to the House on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 865, the future aircraft carriers are expected to enter service in 2014 and 2016.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what type of helicopters will be made available for use on the UK's new aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement; [154023]

(2) how many and what type of aircraft will be made available for use on the UK's new aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement. [154049]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The new aircraft carrier has been designed to support, operate and sustain a Joint Force Air Group of up to 40 aircraft, including up to 36 Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) supported by four Maritime Airborne Surveillance and Control (MASC) aircraft, with the option of other helicopters (for example Merlin Mkl) embarked.

We are currently planning to acquire the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) to meet the JCA requirement. We are assessing the options to fulfil the MASC requirement and will make the decision when the programme achieves sufficient maturity; we currently expect the main investment decision to be around the end of the decade. We will continue to ensure our plans for JCA and MASC remain coherent with the CVF programme.

al-Yamamah Project

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 362W, on the al-Yamamah project, what the costs were for which his Department received a management fee from the Saudi Arabian government in respect of the al-Yamamah programme; in which years since 1985 a management fee was paid; whether the fees were retained by the Government; and if he will make a statement. [154618]

Des Browne: The Department has been paid a management fee in every year since 1986 to cover the cost of its participation in the al-Yamamah Project. The fee is held by the Department to cover in full expenditure as it arises on such items as the salaries and salary-related costs of the staff of the Saudi Armed Forces Project, office and domestic accommodation charges, travel and subsistence, IT and telecommunications, training and professional fees, and utilities.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 16, on military inquests, how many military coroners inquests are outstanding; on what dates he held meetings with ministerial colleagues to discuss outstanding coroners' inquests since he came into office; what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Leader of the House and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Justice on military inquests since 12 July 2007; and what his definition is of backlog. [151600]

Des Browne *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The scheduling of inquests touching on the deaths of Service personnel is a matter for the relevant coroner across England and Wales. As at 28 September 2007, 120 inquests had been completed on Service personnel killed on operations since 2001, 80 of which have been held since the Government took steps to speed up the process on 5 June 2006. 131 inquests remain open: 45 within the jurisdiction of the Oxfordshire Coroner; 44 for the Swindon and Wiltshire Coróner; and 42 for other coroners.

Of the original backlog of 59 inquests identified in the joint Written Ministerial Statement on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 4WS, two remain open within the Oxfordshire Coroner's jurisdiction, one of which has been scheduled. There is one inquest into the deaths of the 10 service personnel killed in the Hercules crash in January 2005 open within the Swindon and Wiltshire Coroner's jurisdiction.

I regard a backlog as having arisen when the volume of inquests makes it difficult for a coroner to conduct the necessary investigations and inquests in a timely manner. Additional resources have been made available by the MOD and the Ministry of Justice to meet the needs of the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire Coroners. We will keep the need for any further resources under close review.

Defence Ministers have engaged closely and regularly with colleagues in the Department for Constitutional Affairs/Ministry of Justice and there have been five joint Written Ministerial Statements to update Parliament on this issue and the additional resources made available. The most recent joint Written Ministerial Statement was made by myself and the Minister for Justice on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 97WS).

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to respond to the Defence Select Committee report on the state of military housing in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [155743]

Derek Twigg: We are looking in detail at the points raised in the report and will respond fully in due course.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of extending pro rata services pensions to all those who served in the armed forces, including those who served before 1975. [155780]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the then Minister for the Armed Forces during an adjournment debate on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 337-40, which clearly set out the legislation and policy background to the issue. The situation has not changed and there is no real prospect that this or any Government could afford the billions of pounds that would be needed to address public sector pensions legacy issues.

Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role UK armed forces will play in the EU military mission to Chad. [154222]

Des Browne: Following the agreement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1778, the EU are discussing a military mission to Chad/Central African Republic. The UK supports the mission as a key means of contributing to regional stability and helping to resolve the Darfur crisis, but we have made it clear that the role of the UK Armed Forces in any mission will be very limited given the extent of our commitments elsewhere.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Defence Export Services Organisation staff were employed in project offices dealing with exports of government to government contracts in April 2007; and how many had duties covering commercial and financial matters. [156338]

Des Browne: In April 2007, almost 200 Defence Export Services Organisation staff were employed in project offices dealing with government-to-government export contracts. Of these, 30 were mainly concerned with commercial and financial aspects of the projects.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Saudi Arabia

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many people were employed in project offices by the Defence Export Services Organisation in *(a)* Saudi Arabia and *(b)* Kuwait in (i) April 2006 and (ii) April 2007; [156336]

(2) how many staff there were in Defence Supply Secretary Offices overseas employed by the Defence Export Services Organisation in *(a)* April 2006 and *(b)* April 2007. [156337]

Des Browne: The numbers of Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) staff employed in project offices and in other offices overseas in April 2006 and April 2007 are shown in the table as follows.

	Staff	
Office [1]	*April 2006*	*April 2007*
Kuwait Project Office	3	2
Saudi Arabia Project Office	62	73
Other overseas offices	40	39

[1] Figures include locally employed staff. Part-time staff are counted as whole.

Defence Procurement Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by the Defence Procurement Agency. [154593]

Derek Twigg: In April 2007 the Defence Procurement Agency was merged with that of the Defence Logistics Organisation to become Defence Equipment and Support (DE and S). DE and S employs six press officers.

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the costs incurred as a result of *(a)* the procurement of the new carriers, *(b)* the procurement of the Joint Strike Fighter, *(c)* the Trident replacement programme, *(d)* procurement of the type 45 destroyers, *(e)* the Future Rapid Effect System, *(f)* upgrading naval bases for the new carriers and *(g)* replacing assets lost, damaged or prematurely worn out by the conflicts in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each of the next five years. [154019]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Current estimates of the costs incurred over the next five years for the programmes are as follows.

Carriers

The overall estimated costs to be incurred as a result of the procurement of the new carriers in the next five years will total £2,415 million.

Disclosure of the detailed estimated annual costings over the five-year period for the procurement of the new carrier would likely prejudice the commercial interest of the project and cannot be provided.

Joint Strike Fighter

Current estimates of the costs incurred for Joint Strike Fighter are shown in Table A.

Table A: Joint Strike Fighter

	£ million
2008-09	160
2009-10	200
2010-11	250
2011-12	285
2012-13	360

UK Nuclear Deterrent Programme

The costs provided in Table B are the estimated costs that the MOD expects to incur over the next three years to implement the decisions to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent capability beyond the life of the current Vanguard class submarines as set out in the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm6994) and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007.

The main part of the programme has not passed business case initial gate approval. Detailed spending plans for future years are therefore not set at this stage.

Table B: The future UK nuclear deterrent programme

	£ million
2008-09	200
2009-10	300
2010-11	400
2011-12	—
2012-13	—

Type 45 Destroyers

Current estimates of the costs for Type 45 Destroyers are shown in Table C.

Table C: Type 45 Destroyers

	£ million
2008-09	550
2009-10	430
2010-11	420
2011-12	290
2012-13	310

Future Rapid Effect System

The estimated costs for the assessment phase of the Future Rapid Effect System project as set out in the National Audit Office Ministry of Defence Major Projects Report 2006 is £649 million.

Disclosure of detailed estimated annual costings over the five year period for the procurement of FRES would likely prejudice the commercial interest of the project and cannot be provided.

Upgrading Naval Bases

The estimated costs to be incurred as a result of upgrading the naval bases for the new carriers in the next five years will total £67 million.

Disclosure of the detailed estimated annual costings over the five year period for the upgrading of the naval bases would likely prejudice the commercial interest of the project and cannot be provided.

Replacement of Assets

Due to the unpredictable nature of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan it is not possible to predict an estimate of the costs of replacing assets lost, damaged or prematurely worn out by the conflicts.

Departments: ICT

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department received from the disposal of information technology equipment in the last year for which figures are available; and what avenues were used for such disposal. [154031]

Derek Twigg: In the last financial year, the net sales revenue generated by the sale of information technology equipment was £120,000. The MOD disposes of this equipment through its Disposal Services Authority (DSA), using incentivised contracts of sale where returns are divided between MOD and the contractor, to encourage maximum revenue generation. Additionally, DSA runs a contract for the disposal of IT equipment classified as hazardous, for which a fee is paid.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [152714]

Derek Twigg: The MOD civilian staff numbers, taken from the departmental end of year accounts, is 90,650 (excluding trading funds). Figures for the 2006-07 financial year are not yet available, we are only able to supply four years of data. The number and value of annual appraisal related bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service (SCS), to fixed term appointees and to civil servants below the level of the SCS covered by the MOD main pay deal (excluding trading funds and agencies), over the past four years are listed in the following tables one to three. The Ministry of Defence also awards special bonuses to individuals and teams for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of professional qualifications which benefit MOD and the individual; these are shown in table four. The final table (five) shows the total value of all bonuses paid: in cash terms and as a percentage of the civilian work force.

Table 1: Bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	181	184	136	140
Value of bonuses paid (£)	1,178,500	918,000	711,737	701,221
Highest bonus payment (£)	16,000	12,500	11,358	9,822

Table 2: Bonuses paid to fixed term appointees

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	10	10	14	13
Value of bonuses paid (£)	73,191	65,586	112,329	86,531
Highest bonus payment (£)	12,915	14,340	8,500	6,827

Table 3: End of year bonuses paid to staff below the level of the SCS[1]

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	46,463	38,766	36,043	27,497
Value of bonuses paid (£)	36,197,006	37,962,800	29,312,275	20,203,875
Highest bonus payment (£)	3,750	3,750	3,175	2,600

[1] Excluding MOD trading fund agencies

Table 4: Special bonuses[1]

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of staff who received bonus(es)	9,974	10,131	10,074	11,872
Value of bonuses paid (£)	3,961,417	4,364,400	3,962,482	3,909,531
Highest bonus payment (£)	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

[1] Excluding MOD trading fund agencies

Table 5: Summary of bonuses paid

Total	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Value of all bonuses paid (£)	41,410,114	43,310,786	34, 098,823	24,901,158
Percentage of total civilian work force	62.5	51.3	47.8	41.1

Ex-Servicemen: Military Decorations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veteran badges have been distributed in each East Midlands constituency. [156535]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in a format that identifies how many Veterans Badges have been issued in each parliamentary constituency and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However Service Personnel and Veterans Agency records have identified that a total of 20,967 badges have been issued in the East Midlands area during the period since 18 April 2005 to date 30 September 2007. The numbers have been identified by the applicants' East Midlands post codes and are broken down as follows:

	Number
Derbyshire	3,689
Leicestershire and Rutland	5,250
Warwickshire	3,770
Nottinghamshire	8,258

Veterans Badges were issued by the Veterans Policy Unit between May 2004 and 17 April 2005. During this period 82,000 badges were issued, however, detailed records in the format required are not held for this period.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why Multi-National Division-South East personnel have reassumed air traffic control responsibility for commercial flight services at Basra International Airport. [153653]

Des Browne *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* UK personnel reassumed Air Traffic Control (ATC) responsibility for commercial flight services at Basra International Airport pending the award of a new US-funded ATC training contract. Training to allow Iraqi personnel to take on this task across the country is expected to re-commence later this year, and Multi National Division (South-East)'s ATC responsibilities will be reviewed accordingly.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attacks there have been on British forces stationed at Basra airport in Iraq in each of the last 12 months; how many British personnel were injured or killed as a result of these attacks; and if he will make a statement. [155317]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The number of indirect fire attacks on UK forces stationed at Basra air station in Iraq in each of the last 12 months is broken down in the following table:

Month	*Number of indirect fire attacks*
2006	
October	6
November	8
December	16
2007	
January	18
February	12
March	10
April	64
May	77
June	76
July	74
August	32
September	5

There have been three UK service personnel killed as a result of indirect fire attacks on Basra air station over this period. They were killed in a single incident on 19 July 2007. It is not possible to break down the number of persons injured as a result of each of these attacks, as this would contravene operational security and be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Further information on the number of UK military and civilian personnel killed and injured between March 2003 and August 2007 is provided on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

The information on the website does not include UK civilians employed or contracted by other Government Departments or by civilian contractors. This information is not held by the MOD.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft there are in the RAF, broken down by aircraft type. [154234]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of aircraft planned to be in service with the RAF on 31 March 2008 are contained in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Fleet number*
Typhoon	49
Tornado GR	137
Tornado F3	68
Harrier	78
Nimrod[1]	18
Tristar	9
VC10	16
Sentry	7
Sentinel	5
C130K[2]	20
C130J	24
C17[3]	5
Islander	2
BAe 146	2
BAe 125	6
Sea King	25
Dominie	9
Hawk	112
Tucano	95
Vigilant	64
Viking	82

[1] Includes Nimrod MR2 and R1.
[2] Does not reflect the loss of one C130K in Iraq on 23 August 2007.
[3] Figure does not include the sixth C17 announced by Secretary of State on 26 July 2007. This will be delivered later in 2008.

These figures include Sentinel, Typhoon and C17 aircraft that are continuing to be delivered during the current financial year. Three Typhoon aircraft remain to be delivered in this financial year. The last of these aircraft is expected to be delivered in the first quarter of 2008. Two Sentinel aircraft are to be delivered, one in the last quarter of 2007 and one in the first quarter of 2008. One C17 is due to be delivered from the Lockheed production line in the first quarter of 2008.

Ministry of Defence Police: Arrests

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many arrests were made by the Ministry of Defence police in each of the last five years; and how many of these resulted in successful prosecutions. [156348]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence police do not routinely record the total number of arrests that they make. Not all arrests result in prosecution. Some arrests are made on suspicions that later prove to be unfounded. Other arrests are made to prevent a potential offence being committed which result in subsequent de-arrest when the threat posed is removed.

Ministry of Defence Police: Finance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding was allocated to the Ministry of Defence police in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [156346]

Derek Twigg: The budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	291.020
2005-06	283.116
2004-05	255.480
2003-04	250.826
2002-03	142.268

The figures in the table are included in the chief constable's annual report and accounts. The figures quoted from financial year 2003-04 also include the budgetary provision for the Ministry of Defence Guard Service.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Government Departments contribute to the funding of the Ministry of Defence police force. [156347]

Derek Twigg: The funding for the Ministry of Defence police is included in the overall Defence budget. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Treasury and the Home Office reimburse the Department for Ministry of Defence policing commitments overseas, at the Royal Mint (an Executive Agency) and at gas installations in the United Kingdom, respectively.

RAF Cosford

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make a statement on future military uses for RAF Cosford in Shropshire. [155976]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1442W, and the statement made by the Minister for the Armed Forces on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 122WS. The Department is exploring a number of proposals for the future defence use of DCAE Cosford and no decision has yet been made. These proposals include the possibility of basing troops returning to the UK from Germany at Cosford, and further announcements will be made once this work has been completed.

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* destroyers and *(b)* frigates are scheduled to (i) leave and (ii) enter service with the Royal Navy in each of the next 10 years. [154393]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: On present planning assumptions, which are routinely reviewed and updated, we expect to withdraw destroyers and frigates from service as follows:

	Destroyers	Frigates
2007	0	0
2008	0	0
2009	2	0
2010	1	0
2011	2	0
2012	2	0
2013	1	0
2014	0	0
2015	0	1
2016	0	0

It is departmental policy to release in-service dates only for those warships for which the main investment decision has been taken. Over the period in question, in-service dates for new destroyers and frigates have been established as follows:

	Destroyers	Frigates
2007	0	0
2008	0	0
2009	1	0
2010	1	0
2011	2	0
2012	1	0
2013	1	0
2014	0	0
2015	0	0
2016	0	0

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the scheduled out-of-service dates are of each *(a)* destroyer, *(b)* frigate and *(c)* submarine in service with the Royal Navy. [154394]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1632W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Warships: Shipbuilding

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on shipbuilding for *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in each year since 1992. [154250]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally, on a year by year basis, nor is it held to the level of detail requested. Estimates detailing how much has been spent on total shipbuilding and repairs in UK industry and commerce can be found in the latest edition of the UK Defence Statistics. The information is in the table.

The figures for 2006-07 are still being finalised and will be released in the future. Programmes such as the new Future Carriers, the Type 45 and the Astute will lead to further investment in this area.

MOD estimated UK expenditure by industry group, shipbuilding and repairing—1991-92 to 2005-06

	£ million[1]
1991-92	1,227
1992-93	1,204
1993-94	1,020
1994-95	882
1995-96	766
1996-97	733
1997-98	790
1998-99	1,180
1999-2000	1,090
2000-01	1,110
2001-02	1,230
2002-03	1,070
2003-04	1,160
2004-05	1,060
2005-06	1,100

[1] Figures are VAT exclusive and at current prices.

HEALTH

Care Homes: Dementia

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the decent homes standards are for late stage dementia sufferers in residential accommodation. [156584]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

In June 2006 the Department for Communities and Local Government published 'A Decent Home: Definition and Guidance for implementation'. This publication makes it clear that:

"The decent homes standard does not apply to Care Homes providing nursing care and regulated by the Commission for Social Care" (paragraph 4.8).

However, the Department of Health has published national minimum standards under section 23 (1) of the Care Standards Act 2000 which form the basis on which the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) registers, inspects and reports on adult social care services, and councils who arrange these services, in England. These standards set out, among other things, the minimum level for residential accommodation for care homes regulated by the CSCI.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many older people he expects to have to sell their homes to cover the cost of residential care in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2030 and *(d)* 2040. [155732]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the sale of property to pay for residential care is not collected centrally. Nor is this information automatically collected locally where a person arranges their care privately. It is not, therefore, possible to estimate the number of homes that are, or may be, sold for this purpose.

It is the Government's policy to support people in their own homes for as long as possible, where it is safe to do so and when it accords with their wishes and assessed needs, which is where most people want to be.

For those people entering residential care, the Government have taken steps to help people avoid selling their homes to pay for residential care. Since October 2001, councils have been able to enter into deferred payments agreements with residents. Under this, the council place a legal charge on the resident's former home which is not collected until the end of the contract. This gives people more options for meeting care home fees.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide Government support specialist NHS centres for those affected by chronic fatigue syndrome in England. [156702]

Ann Keen: We have no current Government plans to provide support for further specialist national health service centres for those living with chronic fatigue syndrome.

Chronically Sick: Health Services

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the implementation of the National Framework for Long-term Conditions. [155638]

Ann Keen: The Department has published a number of documents to support implementation of the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions. These include an audit tool, evaluated examples of good practice, an information strategy, a summary of the evidence on savings and performance indicators within the better metrics project.

Primary care trusts are expected to work towards implementing the NSF over a 10-year period.

Community Hospitals

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been to recipient community hospitals of each scheme approved to date under the expenditure programme of up to £750 million in community hospitals and services announced in July 2006, broken down by constituency; and what the total cost of approved schemes under the programme is. [155737]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Capital allocations from the community hospitals and services programme are made to primary care trusts. £94.5 million has been allocated for 14 schemes. The total estimated cost of these schemes is £140 million. No scheme has been allocated less than the amount requested. We do not hold figures broken down into parliamentary constituencies.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many schemes and at what total cost had been approved by the end of financial year 2006-07 from the five-year expenditure programme of up to £750 million in community hospitals and services announced in July 2006. [155738]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* We announced four schemes in December 2006. A new primary care centre in Washington; the redevelopment of the Gosport War Memorial Hospital; the development of a new community health centre in Yate, Bristol; and the establishment of a Healthy Living Park in Minehead, West Somerset. The total amount allocated to these schemes is £44.6 million. All schemes are subject to the business case approval process.

Contraceptives

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase access to advanced training in contraceptive services. [155925]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is working with the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care, the Royal College of Nurses and others to look at improving access to training in contraception at all levels.

In particular the FPA, at the request of the Department, will hold a specialist working group on nurse training in contraception in November 2007.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-4W, on Departments: public bodies, what changes were made to the NHS Information Centre's responsibilities in each year since 2004-05; to which bodies any such responsibilities were transferred; and what the budget of the Centre was in each year. [154014]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known as The Information Centre for health and social care (IC), was created by statutory instrument as a special health authority on 1 April 2005.

The Information Centre's revenue resource limit from the Department is set out in the following table.

Revenue resource limit for The Information Centre 2004-05 to 2007-08

	Revenue Resource Limit (£ million)
2004-05	[1]0
2005-06	53.1
2006-07	41.5
2007-08	[2]37.2

[1] No funding allocated in 2004-05 because the IC was only established on 1 April 2005.

[2] The 2007-08 figure is subject to change because the revenue resource limit for 2007-08 will only be finalised in January.

The IC took over some of the functions of the earlier NHS Information Authority, which it replaced, together with most of the activities of the former Department of Health Statistics Division and the Prescribing Support Unit of West Yorkshire Health Authority, from which staff were transferred into the IC. These areas of work have been reviewed, integrated and further developed within the remit of the IC.

There have been no changes to the responsibilities of the IC since its establishment in April 2005. As part of the process of integration and consolidation since this date, every opportunity has been taken to ensure that the work undertaken by the IC has been delivered in the most effective and efficient manner. Changes in processes and ways of working have ensured that the IC has delivered efficiencies since it was established, while ensuring that priorities are still delivered.

Doctors: Career Structure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 452W, on doctors' training, how many junior doctors in the first round of applications were told in error that they had received a training place; and what actions were taken by deaneries to ensure that this did not occur. [154214]

Ann Keen: The number of applicants told in error is not held centrally. The Department understands that it was a small number and that deaneries contacted the doctors to notify them of the situation. It is a matter for deaneries to manage the appointment process.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors did not receive job offers in the first round of medical training applications; and what percentage of applicants this represented. [154275]

Ann Keen: In England, there were 27,800 eligible applicants for 15,554 training posts. At the end of Round 1, 85 per cent. of posts were filled. 13,168 applicants had accepted posts, leaving 14,632 who had either not received an offer or had not accepted an offer. The information held centrally does not distinguish between those who received an offer but did not accept it and those who did not receive any offer.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support will be offered to doctors who do not receive a training place in either the first or second round of recruitment in order to safeguard their future careers. [154276]

Ann Keen: We have prepared a package of support for those doctors who are appointable to a training post, but who are not successful in finding one by the end of round 2. This package of support includes additional training and educational opportunities. This comprises:

Access to career information about future training options via local deaneries. Applicants who are already in national health service employment will also be able to access career support from their employer.

About 1,000 extra one-year and general practitioner training posts which will become available for unsuccessful applicants at the end of round 2.

Educational bursaries, so that appointable but unsuccessful applicants who are in NHS service posts can pursue their clinical education and improve their chances of successfully applying for specialty training next year.

In addition, we have agreed that all foundation programme graduates (F2) who are unsuccessful at the end of round 2 will receive a formal career interview which will determine their eligibility for the extra one-year posts and educational grants offered in 'clearing'.

Also, we have opened up discussions with the British Medical Association, the Academy of Royal Colleges and other representatives of the medical profession to discuss whether there is any risk that high academic achievers may be missed by the end of the recruitment process, and if so, how we can avoid that happening.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of junior doctor training posts, unfilled after the first round of job offers, have been temporarily filled by doctors on short-term contracts. [154318]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for the local national health service to fill any vacant posts appropriately.

Dr. Bhattacharyya

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the redundancy of Dr. Bhattacharyya. [156704]

Ann Keen: Staff redundancies in the local national health service is a local matter.

Fibromyalgia

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to raise awareness of fibromyalgia among *(a)* the general public and *(b)* health professionals; [156505]

(2) what progress is being made in improving NHS *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* treatment of fibromyalgia; [156506]

(3) what recent representations he has had and received on fibromyalgia. [156544]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the progress being made by the national health service into improving the diagnosis and treatment of fibromyalgia.

We have taken no recent steps to raise awareness of fibromyalgia among the general public and health professionals.

We have received three recent Downing Street e-petitions on fibromyalgia, as well as correspondence from individuals and their Members of Parliament.

Health Professions: Employment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to assist newly qualified nurses to find employment; and what recent discussions there have been between his Department and the Health Ministers in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Scotland on placing newly qualified (i) nurses, (ii) physiotherapists and (iii) consultant doctors in employment. [155613]

Ann Keen: In April 2007 the Social Partnership Forum, a partnership between the Department, unions and NHS employers, launched an action plan for maximising the opportunities for newly qualified health care professionals in England. This sets out actions to deliver a demonstrable improvement in graduate employment. NHS employers are undertaking a review of progress against the action plan.

Officials in the Department, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly will continue to discuss issues affecting the national health service workforce.

Health Services: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the funding of NHS primary care trusts in Bedfordshire and Luton; and if he will make a statement. [155633]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers have answered letters from both the hon. Member for Luton, South (Margaret Moran) and the hon. Member for Luton, North (Kelvin Hopkins) about the allocations made to both Bedfordshire and Luton primary care trusts. There have also been a number of letters from the local patient and public involvement forums as well as members of the public on the same issue.

Horton Hospital: John Radcliffe Hospital

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what times patients were admitted to the Horton general hospital from the John Radcliffe hospital on *(a)* 2 May, *(b)* 3 May, *(c)* 24 May, *(d)* 18 June, *(e)* 2 July, *(f)* 5 July, *(g)* 7 July, *(h)* 13 July, *(i)* 18 July, *(j)* 19 July, *(k)* 20 July and *(l)* 21 July. [156171]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospitals in England rapid screen elective admissions. [156455]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Information on rapid methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) screening is not available centrally but we believe that it is used in a small number of hospitals.

However, on 4 October, in his interim report 'Our NHS, Our Future', Lord Darzi announced the introduction of MRSA screening for all elective admissions from next year, and for all emergency admissions as soon as practicable within the next three years.

Incontinence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish guidance on continence services as part of the planned high-level report on developing services for older people with complex needs. [156217]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The key messages for developing services for older people with complex needs were outlined in the National Clinical Director for Older People's reconfiguration report "A Recipe for Care" published in January of this year. There are no plans to issue further guidance on continence services but the National Clinical Director continues to advise Ministers on developing services for older people with complex needs and will continue to publish evidence-based information to support service development.

The management of continence is a key issue for the care of older people, as highlighted in Standard 2 of the National Service Framework for Older People and is one of the conditions for which early intervention is recommended, as outlined in "A Recipe for Care".

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the results of the second survey of continence care for older people undertaken by the Royal College of Physicians. [156219]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no assessment of the results of the second survey of continence care undertaken by the Royal College of Physicians.

Incontinence: Children

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specific measures are in place to deliver an incontinence service for younger people and disabled children. [156215]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The assessment of paediatric continence services is for local primary care trusts (PCTs), with a view to compliance with standard six of the national service framework for children. This standard includes a specific section on paediatric incontinence. The provision of continence services for younger people and disabled children is the responsibility of local PCTs, with a view to compliance with standard six of the national service framework for children. This standard includes a specific section on paediatric incontinence.

Incontinence: Home Care Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to carry out a review of the impact on elderly people of changes to the home delivery service of incontinence products; [156216]

(2) how many health authorities provide an integrated incontinence service; [156218]

(3) what powers are available to the Government to oblige health bodies to comply with the guidelines contained in Good Practice in Continence Services; and whether sanctions are available for non-compliance; [156220]

(4) whether the Government plans to carry out research to ascertain how many people suffer from incontinence, broken down by *(a)* the age and sex of those affected and *(b)* the form of incontinence. [156222]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to carry out research into the number of people living with incontinence.

Information on the number of strategic health authorities (SHAs) proving an integrated continence service is not collected centrally.

We currently have no plans to review the impact on older people of the changes to the home delivery service of continence products.

Health bodies are expected to have regard for the guidance contained in the document "Good Practice in Continence Services". SHAs have a duty to ensure that primary care trusts provide acceptable continence services. The Healthcare Commission may intervene where health bodies fail to provide an adequate level of service.

Maternity Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 176W, on maternity services, on what evidential basis the figure for live births in England in 2006 was estimated; and what percentage change this figure represented from live births in England in 2005. [154274]

Ann Keen: In 2005 there were 613,028 live births in England. In 2006 there were 635,748 live births. This was a 3.7 per cent. increase on live births in England in 2005. The figure for live births in the original reply was for England and Wales whereas these figures are England only. This information is given in the table. Table 6 of the "Office for National Statistics Births (Provisional), Selected Background Data, England and Wales" and is published on the ONS website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Table_6_Area_Health.xls

The figure for the number of live births in England 2006 comes from the details collected when births are registered. Registering a birth is a legal requirement and must be done within 42 days of the birth. Births to residents of England which are registered elsewhere are excluded, while births registered in England whose usual residence is elsewhere, are included.

Table 6: live births by health area of usual residence of mother, numbers, general fertility rates and total fertility rates, 2006—England and Wales, Government Office Regions (within England), and health authorities/boards[1]

Area of usual residence	*Live births*	*GFR*[2]	*TFR*[3]
England and Wales	669,601	60.2	1.86
England	635,748	60.3	1.86
North East	29,184	56.5	1.80
North East	29,184	56.5	1.80
North West	84,155	60.0	1.90
North West	84,155	60.0	1.90
Yorkshire and the Humber	62,955	59.4	1.86
Yorkshire and the Humber	62,955	59.4	1.86
East Midlands	50,717	57.4	1.83
East Midlands	50,717	57.4	1.83
West Midlands	67,688	62.5	1.97
West Midlands	67,688	62.5	1.97
East	66,870	59.9	1.88
East of England	66,870	59.9	1.88
London	120,898	65.8	1.85
London	120,898	65.8	1.85
South East	98,566	59.2	1.85
South East Coast	49,163	59.0	1.86
South Central	49,403	59.4	1.83
South West	54,715	56.1	1.80
South West	54,715	56.1	1.80
Wales	33,628	58.1	1.86
Anglesey	697	58.2	1.92
Gwynedd	1,331	60.3	1.91
Conwy	1,149	62.2	2.13
Denbighshire	989	58.2	1.94
Flintshire	1,719	58.9	1.93
Wrexham	1,597	61.7	1.96
Powys Teaching	1,222	57.3	2.02
Ceredigion	590	39.3	1.48
Pembrokeshire	1,278	63.1	2.18
Carmarthenshire	1,887	58.9	1.95
Swansea	2,543	56.2	1.79
Neath Port Talbot	1,515	58.4	1.92
Bridgend	1,526	59.1	1.96
Vale of Glamorgan	1,360	57.3	1.90
Cardiff	4,216	55.2	1.69
Rhondda Cynon Taff Teaching	2,778	58.1	1.81
Merthyr Tydfil	692	62.2	2.06
Caerphilly Teaching	2,167	63.1	2.01
Blaenau Gwent	770	55.8	1.86
Torfaen	1,069	60.8	1.99
Monmouthshire	854	56.4	2.00
Newport	1,679	58.9	1.93

Table 6: live births by health area of usual residence of mother, numbers, general fertility rates and total fertility rates, 2006—England and Wales, Government Office Regions (within England), and health authorities/boards[1]

Area of usual residence	*Live births*	*GFR*[2]	*TFR*[3]
Normal residence outside England and Wales	225	—	—

[1] Strategic health authorities in England and local health boards in Wales.
[2] The general fertility rate (GFR) is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44.
[3] The total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of children that would be born per woman if women experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.

Midwives: Pay

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on progress on implementing the pay rise for midwives payable in financial year 2007-08. [154476]

Ann Keen: Discussions continue between the Department, the NHS Employers organisation and the national health service unions about this year's pay award. We are hopeful the outcome from these talks will enable the award to be implemented shortly.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the implementation of the Musculoskeletal Services Framework as a method of reducing *(a)* long-term sickness and *(b)* the number of people claiming incapacity benefit. [154697]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any discussions between departmental officials and the Department for Work and Pensions on the implementation of the musculoskeletal services framework as a method of reducing long-term sickness and the number of people claiming incapacity benefit.

The framework was published as good practice guidance and it is for local organisations to decide how best to implement it.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information the National Clinical and Health Outcomes Database captures on musculoskeletal system problems; and how much expenditure this covers within that category of expenditure within the National Programme Budgeting Database. [154698]

Ann Keen: The clinical and health outcomes knowledge base contains comparative data from over 700 health and local government organisations. Databases capturing information on musculoskeletal problems include:

The United Kingdom pain database;
The national spinal injuries centre medical research database,
The national joint registry;
Norfolk arthritis register;
National total hip replacement outcomes study; and
Trent and North West arthroplasty registers.

Information on the expenditure covered by these databases is not available.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to extend the clinical and health outcomes data collected in relation to musculoskeletal system problems (excluding trauma). [154783]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any specific plans to extend the clinical and health outcomes data collected in relation to musculoskeletal problems.

NHS: Alcoholic Drinks

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff were given time off for treatment for either alcohol or drug abuse in each of the last five years. [156672]

Ann Keen: Data are not collected centrally on how many national health service staff are given time off for treatment for either alcohol or drug abuse. It is the responsibility of NHS employers to support their staff with any health related problems, ensuring that patient safety is also taken into consideration.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the annual survey of NHS information management and technology expenditure is expected to be published. [155864]

Mr. Bradshaw: Full results and analysis from the 2006 survey were published in January 2007. A copy of the survey results has been placed in the House Library and can also be found online at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/resources/funding.

Information from the 2007 survey is expected to be published in January 2008.

NHS: Internet

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total set-up costs were for the Our NHS, Our Future consultation website; what was the total cost to his Department of the COI Communications video presented via the website; and what ongoing costs will be incurred by his Department for the upkeep of the website. [156389]

Ann Keen: The success of the review depends on good communication and the involvement of patients, public and staff. The set-up costs of the communications website are expected to total around £6,000, and the film about £20,000. The ongoing costs of the upkeep of the website will relate to the content as it develops over the course of the review.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government are taking to increase the number of people on the organ donor register; [154268]

(2) how many people were on the organ donor register in each of the last 10 years; [154269]

(3) what proportion of families refused consent to donate relatives' organs in the case of *(a)* all deaths, *(b)* deaths where the individual was on the organ donor register and *(c)* deaths where the individual was not on the organ donor register in the latest period for which figures are available. [154270]

Ann Keen: The number on the organ donor register in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

	Added in year	*Million Total at end*
1994	0.14	0.14
1995	2.21	2.35
1996	1.39	3.74
1997	0.92	4.66
1998	0.87	5.53
1999	1.51	7.04
2000	1.23	8.27
2001	0.74	9.01
2002	1.08	10.09
2003	0.87	10.96
2004	0.96	11.92
2005	1.01	12.93
2006	1.04	13.97

Information on family refusal is only collected in the case of deceased potential heartbeating donors for whom solid organ donation was considered and whose family were approached for consent to donation.

In these cases, the overall refusal rate was 39.9 per cent. In cases whereby the potential donor was known to be on the organ donor register, the family refusal rate was 6.5 per cent. In cases where it was known that the potential donor was not on the organ donor register, the family refusal rate was 36.6 per cent.

The Department launched "Saving Lives, Valuing Donors: A Transplant Framework for England" in 2003 and the National Service Framework for Renal Services in 2004. These set out the Department's key aims for organ and tissue transplantation over the following 10 years. Government investment in hospital-based funding has helped increase donor rates and an organ donor taskforce will report to Ministers in autumn 2007 on how organ donor rates can be further improved. Following the publication of the chief medical officer's annual report in July, the taskforce will also examine the potential impact on organ donation of introducing an 'opt out' or presumed consent scheme.

Paediatrics: Foreign Workers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many international medical graduates were excluded from applying for paediatrics because they did not have highly skilled migrant programme status on 5 February 2007. [154796]

Ann Keen: No candidates have been excluded from applying for programmes in the specialty training recruitment process because they were not on the highly skilled migrant programme on February 2007.

However the applications of applicants who do not meet the right to work criteria should only be considered if there are no suitable United Kingdom or European economic area applicants.

Paediatrics: Training

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of total training posts in paediatrics in England have been filled with junior doctors in training programmes for *(a)* paediatricians and *(b)* general practice; [154794]

(2) what proportion of paediatric training posts were unfilled on *(a)* 26 July and *(b)* 8 October 2007. [154795]

Ann Keen: The answer is as follows:

89 per cent. of posts in paediatrics have been filled as at 26 July 2007.

91 per cent. of posts in paediatrics have been filled as at 2 September 2007.

100 per cent. of posts in general practice have been filled.

Round two is still ongoing.

The proportion of paediatric training posts that will be unfilled at 8 October 2007 is not available yet.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: Agency Nurses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on agency nurses providing temporary cover in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [154762]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: Information on how much was spent on agency nurses at Peterborough hospital prior to the trust attaining foundation trust status are shown in the following table.

Non-NHS staff (agency, etc.) (by national health service classification) salaries and wages—nursing, midwifery and health visiting

Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust/Peterborough and Stamford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*Expenditure (£)*
1997-98	164,803
1998-99	200,280
1999-2000	449,683
2000-01	451,792
2001-02	208,525
2002-03	444,028
2003-04	1,626,075

Source:
Trust Financial Returns 1997-98 to 2003-04

Information relating to staffing costs is no longer held centrally in view of the trust achieving NHS foundation trust status from 1 April 2004. These data can be obtained by contacting the chair of the trust.

Secure Psychiatric Units

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether there is sufficient capacity in existing regional medium secure units to meet the need for such places in each region; in which regions there is an assessed shortfall; what the extent is of the shortfall in each case; and what plans are in place to address the shortfall. [156082]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on capacity for medium secure services are not routinely collected by the Department. The Department works to support local commissioners, as it is the responsibility of local commissioners to assess service needs in their area and plan accordingly. A capacity review of high and medium secure services was completed in January 2006 in order to inform policy on this issue and to help support commissioners. This capacity review took into consideration historical utilisation, changing legislation (e.g. draft Mental Health Bill and public protection orders), court sentencing trends, prison transfers and the needs of different patient groups (e.g. women, learning disabled men, patients with dangerous and severe personality disorder and deaf patients).

The review concluded that the need for medium secure capacity was gradually rising and robust local commissioning plans were necessary to ensure that there was strategic planning on a regional basis to deliver additional medium secure capacity in a co-ordinated way and to ensure that commissioning delivered good value for money. As at January 2006 when the review took place, there were 29 national health service medium secure units providing around 1,972 beds, with a further 1,500 beds provided by the independent sector. This has now increased and there are 32 NHS medium secure units.

The capacity review set out three projections for increases in medium secure capacity, based on variations in trends. The low projections were the lowest capacity increase likely and the high projections were the highest capacity increase likely. The medium projections were the most likely and, in subsequent discussions with stakeholders, the medium projections were thought to be reasonable. An extract from the review with a breakdown of capacity and projections by catchment areas is shown in the following tables. In total, the medium projections in the capacity review predicted an increase in capacity of 614 beds for men and 85 beds for women between 2005-06 and 2010-11, so a total of 699 beds. The NHS is on course to exceed this projected increase in capacity in medium secure services, as long as outlined local plans are followed.

The NHS have been working on local commissioning plans to ensure strategic planning on a regional basis. These local commissioning plans are under constant review by local commissioners and are updated to take account of changing local circumstances.

Extract from the capacity review showing estimated projected capacity requirements for medium secure services:

The following tables show total patient and bed numbers for 2005-06 to 2010-11 broken down by catchment group.

Male patients

	2005-06	*End 2010-11*		
Catchment group	*Baseline*	*Lower*	*Middle*	*Higher*
East Midlands and South Yorks	166	197	223	311
Eastern	211	214	235	293
London	727	828	906	1,155
North West	319	357	391	504
Northern	95	107	120	159
South	265	358	385	466
Wales	145	176	193	247
West Midlands	240	264	302	429
Yorkshire	158	180	185	203
Total—males	2,326	2,681	2,940	3,769

Female patients

	2005-06	*End 2010-11*		
Catchment group	*Baseline*	*Lower*	*Middle*	*Higher*
East Midlands and South Yorks	26	30	33	46
Eastern	48	53	53	55
London	94	116	122	137
North West	64	66	69	79
Northern	11	12	13	16
South	78	98	106	128
Wales	45	44	47	57
West Midlands	60	63	67	79
Yorkshire	29	28	30	32
Total—females	455	511	540	628

Smoking: Public Houses

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in revenues of public houses in England since the introduction of the ban on smoking in public places; and if he will make a statement. [156172]

Dawn Primarolo: While it is still too early to make any definitive statement about the economic impact of the law which came into operation on 1 July 2007 in England, based on our regulatory impact assessment (RIA) we are not expecting a significant positive or negative impact on the industry.

The RIA is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Tobacco/DH_076227

Social Services: Per Capita Costs

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the spending per head was on social services in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [156315]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There would be disproportionate costs incurred to produce this information across the whole time period requested. The following table shows the average per capita social services spending from 2000-01 to 2005-06 for England, the South West and Cornwall.

	England total	*South West*	*Cornwall*
2000-01	222	182	167
2001-02	236	195	184
2002-03	265	227	209
2003-04	301	265	256
2004-05	329	296	293
2005-06	348	315	305

Notes:
1. The table shows total net cost of social services per head of population, this is the total spend excluding capital charges minus income received from client contributions and other income which includes income from the national health service.
2. In 2003-04 the Supported People Grant was introduced which should be taken into consideration when making comparisons over time. The expenditure information is actual spend and has not been adjusted for inflation.

Teenage Pregnancy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is on course to meet the 2010 target for halving the conception rate of under 18s. [152182]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

2005 under-18 conception rate data—published by the Office for National Statistics in February 2007—showed that since the 1998 baseline year, the under-18 conception rate in England fell by 11.8 per cent., to its lowest level for over 20 years. The under-16 rate fell by 12.1 per cent. over the same period.

Notwithstanding these achievements, we need to see faster progress in order to achieve the challenging target of halving the under-18 conception rate by 2010. Consequently, we have issued guidance to local authorities and primary care trusts, setting out the key features of local strategies in areas where teenage conception rates have fallen fastest. All areas have been asked to review their strategies against this guidance, with a view to raising all areas' performance to the levels of the best. If all areas had performed as well as the top quartile, the national reduction would be 26 per cent.—more than twice the 11.8 per cent. reduction that has actually been achieved.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to improve the rate at which human organs become available for transplant. [154358]

Ann Keen: The Department launched 'Saving Lives, Valuing Donors: A Transplant Framework for England' in 2003 and the National Service Framework for Renal Services in 2004. These set out the Department's key aims for organ and tissue transplantation over the following 10 years. Government investment in hospital based funding has helped increase donor rates and an organ donor taskforce will report to Ministers in autumn 2007 on how organ donor rates can be further improved. Following the publication of the Chief Medical Officer's annual report in July, the taskforce will also examine the potential impact on organ donation of introducing an opt out or presumed consent scheme.

Warrington Hospital

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* outpatient appointments and *(b)* operations there were at Warrington hospital in each of the last five years. [147388]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The tables show the number of out-patient appointments and the number of finished consultant episodes with an operation at North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Out-patient appointments, North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust, all specialties, 2001-02 to 2006-07

	First attendances seen	*First attendances DNA*	*Subsequent attendances seen*	*Subsequent attendances DNA*	*Total appointments*
2002-03	69,574	6,593	188,985	24,112	289,264
2003-04	70,821	7,133	182,208	23,653	283,815
2004-05	70,297	5,452	168,622	21,455	265,826
2005-06	61,264	4,062	154,179	24,128	243,633
2006-07	59,147	3,894	157,285	20,658	240,984

Source:
Department of Health form QMOP and QM08

Count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with an Operation (OPCS-4 codes between A01-X59 or and (operation code not known)) as reported by the North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust (RWW). Note that this excludes procedures performed as outpatients.

NHS Hospitals England

Data year	*Count of FCEs with an operation*
2001-02	40,885
2002-03	39,433
2003-04	38,578
2004-05	31,312
2005-06	30,684

Notes:
1. The NHS Information Centre has investigated with North West Strategic Health Authority and North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust the reason for the reported decrease in the number of FCEs with an operation. The main cause of this decrease is that between 2002-03 and 2004-05 the trust stopped recoding certain procedures as being performed in a day case setting and started recording them as being performed in outpatients. Information is not available centrally on total procedures performed in outpatients. Data reclassification issues are being picked up by the Information Centre and the Audit Commission. From April 2007 onwards the trust will revert to counting this activity as a day case.
2. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
3. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE) with an Operation
A count of FCEs with an operation is the number of episodes with at least one coded procedure field. Please note that more procedures are carried out than finished consultant episodes with an operation. For example, patients undergoing a cataract operation would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single finished consultant episode.
4. Data Quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
5. Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Wheelchairs

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations he has received from wheelchair users groups in relation to proposed changes to wheelchair provision and other community equipment services; [155953]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to prepare for future demand for wheelchair provision; [155954]

(3) if he will make a statement on proposed changes to the provision of wheelchairs and other such equipment for the disabled, currently being considered. [155955]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Prime Minister launched the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme in June 2006 to work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a radical new model for delivery of community equipment and wheelchair services in England, which has users and carers at its heart. The intention was to look at the two services in parallel, but this has not been feasible.

Two potential models were developed for wheelchair services. However, without robust data it was not possible to make recommendations for the way forward. This is of particular concern in view of the successive reports over the last 20 years which have consistently argued for modernisation and investment in the wheelchair services. A further data gathering exercise was agreed, this will report back to the Ministers in December 2007.

The programme has engaged with users, carers and organisations that represent them since the beginning. This continues through the user representative group and a user and carer questionnaire.

We have been working with individual wheelchair users and carers of people who use wheelchairs as well as representatives of:

Action for Kids;

Muscular Dystrophy Campaign;

Multiple Sclerosis Society;

Spinal Injuries Association;

Em Power;

Whiz-Kidz;

Limbless Association;

National Forum Wheelchair User Groups; and

Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The questionnaire offers users and carers an opportunity to comment on the chairs they currently have and make suggestions for change. It is available on the CSED website at:

www.csed.csip.org.uk/workstreams/transforming-community-equipment-wheelchair-services/wheelchair-services/wheelchair-services-user-questionnaire.html

and through the third sector organisations both through their publications and websites. Wheelchair services are also helping reach those users and carers who are unable to access the web.

The analysis of the questionnaires will continue u til the end of November and the results will feed into the development of the business case.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class flights in the last 12 months. [153286]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2048-49W. Information relating to Ministers overseas travel for 2006-07 was published on 25 July 2007 and is available in the Libraries of the Houses for the reference of Members.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the *(a)* purpose and (b) cost was of each payment by the Cabinet Office to Opinion Leader Research in 2005-06; [146862]

(2) what the *(a)* amount and *(b)* purpose was of each payment made by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in the last 12 months; [147031]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1038W, how much his Department has paid to Opinion Leader Research since 1997. [147040]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office made three payments to Opinion Leader Research in 2005-06; for £14,100, £15,098.02 and £32,900.

These payments were made by the Office of Public Sector Reform for the

"Provision of services to deliver two Policy Collaborative events to collate views of victims of volume crime and gain an understanding of what victims of volume crime want from the criminal justice system and compare their perceptions of a 'quality service' with existing plans to reform the criminal justice system".

Since 1997, the Cabinet Office has made 17 payments to Opinion Leader Research at a total value of £194,000. All contracts were awarded following a competitively tendered process. None of these payments were made in the past 12 months.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) to which periodicals his Department subscribes; [153289]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months; [153290]

(3) what magazines, newspapers and periodicals his Department subscribed to before 27 June; and which one his Department has subscribed to since that date. [153530]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153283]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has not had any redundancies in the last 12 months.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153294]

Gillian Merron: This information is only available at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153288]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has not incurred any Industrial (Employment) Tribunal costs in the last 12 months.

Departments: Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 901-02W, on departments: vacancies, whether the Government Communication Network website previously listed on its public website jobs for Government communicators and other civil servants that were not open to the public. [153638]

Edward Miliband: The Government Communication Network website only ever listed jobs which were open to the public on the public part of the website. Vacancies which were only open to Government communicators and other civil servants were listed on the password protected part of the site—which was only open to civil servants. Therefore there has been no change to what job vacancies members of the public can see.

Emergencies: Facilities

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* bowsers and *(b)* portaloos the public sector has access to for utilising in a national emergency situation; whether there are plans to increase those numbers; and if he will make a statement. [154345]

Edward Miliband: The Public sector does not have access to a specific number of bowsers and portaloos but each water company holds a stock of emergency equipment. Mutual aid arrangements exist between water companies to provide bowsers and other equipment to a water company that is dealing with an emergency. These arrangements can be further augmented, if necessary, with equipment from the public and private sectors. Portaloos and other sanitary equipment can be sourced by a variety of means including local authorities and private contractors when necessary.

Capability in these areas can be further increased by requesting assistance through established mutual aid arrangements with EU partners.

The review announced by Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 12 July will consider whether or not the existing arrangements for the provision of such items are adequate and make recommendations for improvement where necessary.

FutureBuilders England

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was of redesigning the FutureBuilders logo. [154604]

Phil Hope: The redesign of the Futurebuilders logo cost £6,500. The redesign was part of a wider strategy by Futurebuilders England to improve brand awareness and understanding of the fund to its key audiences. It was launched by Futurebuilders England on 1 January 2007.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library all papers concerning the seminar at Downing Street in February 2002 to discuss the future of IT in the NHS. [155034]

Edward Miliband: It is not normal practice to place copies of the Prime Minister's internal working papers in the Library of the House.

Smith Institute

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what meetings Cabinet Office ministers have held with representatives of the Smith Institute since May 2005. [155628]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1100W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Constitutional Treaty

12. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the changes between the EU constitutional treaty and the proposed EU reform treaty are. [156135]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The constitutional treaty is now defunct. The Inter-Governmental Conference Mandate agreed by the June European Council states that

"The constitutional concept has been abandoned."

While all member states have moved away from the constitution, the UK has a specific treaty deal which means we have moved further than anyone else from the constitution.

15. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in negotiations in the intergovernmental conference on the proposed EU reform treaty. [156139]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The legal group producing the draft treaty finished their work on 3 October.

We believe that the UK red lines will be achieved and we are confident that we can persuade our European partners that this is the right deal for the UK and EU.

19. **Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government policy is on the conduct of a national referendum on the proposed treaty changing the constitutional arrangements of the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [156144]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK has only ever held one national referendum, which was in 1975. We will seek parliamentary ratification of this Reform Treaty. In doing so we shall adopt a similar approach to that adopted by the Governments of Tony Blair, Sir John Major and Baroness Thatcher.

Portugal: British Citizens

13. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met his Portuguese counterpart to discuss issues relating to British holiday-makers in that country. [156136]

Mr. Jim Murphy: UK Ministers have regular contacts with Portuguese counterparts to discuss a range of issues.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers also discuss consular specific cases with Portuguese Ministers when necessary.

Iran

14. **Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Iranian nuclear programme. [156137]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) today (UIN 156131).

Iraq

16. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Iraq. [156140]

Dr. Howells: Political progress, particularly on national reconciliation, is critical to improving the situation in Iraq. I welcome the agreements reached at the leaders' conference in Baghdad in August and the emphasis Prime Minister Maliki gave to reconciliation in his recent speech at the UN General Assembly. We are urging the Iraqis to maintain positive momentum and ensure practical follow-up.

Tibet

17. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure journalists have free access to Tibet. [156141]

Meg Munn: We welcome the regulations implemented by the Chinese Government on 1 January to relax restrictions on foreign journalists in China. At the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, the Chinese Government confirmed the regulations applied in Tibet. We are concerned, however, that like all visitors to Tibet, journalists must still seek permission to enter the region from the local authorities and will continue to raise this with China.

Zimbabwe

18. **Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Zimbabwe. [156142]

Meg Munn: The situation in Zimbabwe is appalling. That is why my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is clear he will not attend an EU-Africa summit in Europe with President Mugabe. That is also why we are working for change by giving up to £40 million in humanitarian aid a year; maintaining international pressure on the regime; and supporting those working in Zimbabwe for democratic change.

Middle East Peace Process

20. **Dr. Palmer**: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Middle East peace process. [156145]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Staffordshire (Sir Patrick Cormack) today (UIN156128).

21. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress made in the Middle East peace process. [156146]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Staffordshire (Sir Patrick Cormack) today (UIN156128).

UK and US Relations

22. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on the UK's special relationship with the US. [156147]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has a regular dialogue with his American

counterpart. As both my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have said repeatedly, our relationship with the United States will continue to be the single most important bilateral relationship for the United Kingdom. Our discussions with the US Administration take place within this very clear context.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment the Government have made of heroin and poppy production in areas of Afghanistan *(a)* not controlled by the Taliban and *(b)* under the control of the Allies; [156014]

(2) what recent assessment the Government have made of poppy and heroin production from the areas of Afghanistan under the control of the Taliban. [156015]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not carry out independent assessments of the heroin and poppy production in Afghanistan. Poppy cultivation figures are measured by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The figures do not take into account the control of land on which poppy is cultivated. Nor has there been a study defining locations of heroin laboratories on land inside or outside of government control. But there is a clear link between poppy cultivation and insecurity, shown by the fact that over 75 per cent. cultivation takes place in the least secure southern provinces. In the more secure central and northern regions, cultivation generally appears to be decreasing or stabilising. The number of "poppy free provinces" has increased from six in 2006 to 13 in 2007, demonstrating that where the integrated approach set out in the government of Afghanistan's national drug control strategy can be brought to bear, it is delivering results.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who represented the UK at the conference held in Afghanistan on 29 August 2007 on counternarcotics; whether there will be any change in the ISAF counternarcotic strategy as a result of the conference; and if he will make a statement. [156431]

Dr. Howells: The UK was represented at the 3rd National Counter Narcotics Conference in Kabul by our ambassador in Afghanistan, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles.

The International Security Assistance Force is providing increasing support to the Afghan Counter Narcotics effort. Recently this has included help with this year's pre-planting campaign and support to Afghan law enforcement and interdiction operations.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on associations between members of the Afghanistan parliament and al-Qaeda. [156013]

Dr. Howells: We have not received any reports and are not aware of any associations between members of the Afghan parliament and al-Qaeda.

Bermuda Housing Corporation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the outcome of the Metropolitan Police inquiry initiated by John Verveker, Governor of Bermuda, into the leak of Bermuda police documents relating to the Bermuda Housing Corporation. [155816]

Meg Munn: Two senior officers (one recently retired) from Kent Constabulary visited Bermuda in June 2007, at the request of the Commissioner of Police, to review the conduct of the Bermuda Police Service investigation into the leak of confidential police files. They concluded that the investigation was being managed in a competent and professional manner.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will appoint a senior United Kingdom police officer to conduct an inquiry into allegations of impropriety in the conduct of the Bermuda Housing Corporation's affairs. [155817]

Meg Munn: These allegations were fully investigated at the time by the appropriate authorities in Bermuda with support from New Scotland Yard.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the findings of the fraud squad investigation concluded in August 2004 into the Bermuda Housing Corporation. [155822]

Meg Munn: A thorough investigation, assisted by officers from New Scotland Yard, resulted in criminal proceedings leading to a custodial sentence.

Bermuda: Armed Forces

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent inspection of the Royal Bermuda Regiment has been conducted to ensure that deficiencies identified in the report submitted in November 2005 following the inspection conducted by Colonel Baxter have been remedied and his recommendations implemented; and if he will make a statement. [155804]

Meg Munn: Colonel Fairclough, Assistant Military Attache at our embassy in Washington, assessed the Bermuda Regiment's capability in November 2006. Good progress has been made on implementing recommendations from Colonel Baxter with regard to training and in particular on improved training for junior commanders. In terms of equipment replacement—namely vehicles, communications, weapons and boats—bids for funding have been submitted to the Bermuda government and are to be addressed over a five-year period.

Bermuda: Police

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response the Governor of Bermuda has made to the request of Senator Burch, Minister of Public Safety, on 14 August 2007 that he help address Bermuda's policing difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [156332]

Meg Munn: Under the Bermuda Constitution, the Governor has overall responsibility for the police. He has made it clear on several occasions that there will be no change in this. The Governor discusses policing issues on a regular basis with both the Premier and the Minister of Public Safety.

Bermuda: Territorial Waters

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial contribution has been made by the Government towards the cost of law enforcement and national security in and around the territorial waters of Bermuda; and if he will make a statement. [156334]

Meg Munn: The security of the UK Overseas Territories is the responsibility of the Government. Consequently, Bermuda benefits from assistance provided by Regional Law Enforcement and Maritime Training Advisers funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Bermuda is also visited on a regular basis by Royal Navy ships. The Government of Bermuda, however, meets the cost of its own law enforcement, including within its territorial waters.

British Council: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many press officers are employed by the British Council. [154634]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The British Council has two press officers working in London. In addition there are two members of staff who spend half their time on press office work.

In most of the 110 countries where the British Council operates, there is a member of staff who has responsibility for press office work although, particularly in smaller operations, this only forms part of their duties.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which dates over the past three years governors of overseas territories who were retiring from the Diplomatic Service have despatched valedictory e-grams or telegrams; and if he will make a statement. [155809]

Meg Munn: The Governors of the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Falkland Islands have retired from the Diplomatic Service in the past three years. Their valedictory e-grams were despatched on 26 October 2005, 7 April 2006 and 15 August 2006.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the GDP per head of population is in *(a)* pounds sterling and *(b)* US dollars of each of the UK overseas territories, listed in descending order of population size. [155812]

Meg Munn: Gross domestic product (GDP) per head calculations rely on information about economic activity (GDP) and population. All GDP calculations are made by the overseas territories (OTs), who employ either specialised statisticians or analysts. The accuracy of GDP depends on the analytical input that such small offices are able to devote to calculating it. Population data are based on a census, which is usually carried out every few years, as in the United Kingdom. Population estimates have to be made for intermediate years.

Therefore GDP per capita figures will vary in accuracy, and it is not unusual for estimates to be revised after they have been published. The varying populations of the OTs compound this—a small change in population can have a bigger effect on GDP per capita.

The following table lists the OTs best estimates of GDP per capita for 2005 (or 2004 in the case of the Falkland Islands).

	Population	*GDP per head (sterling)*	*GDP per head ($US)*
Bermuda	63,571	42,636	76,403
Cayman Islands	48,353	27,179	48,704
Turks and Caicos Islands	30,602	8,752	15,683
Gibraltar	28,779	20,511	36,756
British Virgin Islands	27,000	21,205	38,000
Anguilla	13,638	5,419	9,711
Montserrat	4,785	4,295	7,696
St. Helena	4,100	3,137	5,622
Falkland Islands	2,955	25,350	46,124
Pitcairn Islands	45	1,889	3,385

These figures are based on £/$US exchange rate at 1 July in the relevant year. The St. Helena figure does not include the dependencies of Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, for which data are not available.

The other OTs—British Indian Ocean Territory, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Sovereign Base areas on Cyprus, and the British Antarctic Territory—have no settled populations.

Burma

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UN Secretary-General regarding Burma. [155719]

Meg Munn: We have kept in regular contact with the UN Secretary-General and his staff during the recent events in Burma. My right hon. Friend the Prime

Minister wrote to the UN Secretary-General on 25 September and spoke to him on 26 September. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Burma with the UN Secretary-General on 28 September.

Burma: Armed Forces

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate the UK Government have made of the number of forcibly conscripted child soldiers in the Burma Army; and what reports he has received on the conditions in which they are held; [155672]

(2) what steps he has taken to raise the issue of the forced conscription of child soldiers with the Burmese regime. [155673]

Meg Munn: We receive regular reports about forced recruitment and the use and ill treatment of child soldiers in Burma. We are unable to estimate the number of forcibly recruited soldiers.

On 2 October, the Human Rights Council (HRC) passed a resolution sponsored by the EU, with the strong support of the UK, which expressed deep concern about the situation in Burma. In our statement to the HRC, we drew attention to the regime's persistent violations of human rights, including the use of child soldiers.

We have repeatedly raised the issue with the Burmese regime. My right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney), the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, raised our concerns with the Burmese Foreign Minister in Hamburg on 28 May.

Our ambassador in Rangoon takes every opportunity to raise human rights with the regime, most recently when he met the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister and the Burmese Minister for Labour on 25 September.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict following his visit to Burma. [155674]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms Coomaraswamy, following her visit to Burma. However, Ms Coomaraswamy did meet our ambassador in Rangoon during her visit.

Burma: Defence Equipment

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the sale of military helicopters to Burma by India containing parts manufactured or designed by *(a)* EU and *(b)* UK companies. [154330]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the report published by non-governmental organisations saying that the Indian Government is planning to transfer advanced light helicopters to Burma.

On 27 July, the EU Troika in New Delhi delivered a demarche on the Indian Government about the reported transfer of the helicopters to Burma. They reminded the Indian Government of the long-standing common position on Burma, which includes an arms embargo, and the EU's deep concern about the situation there. The Indian Government reiterated that no such deal was under consideration.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the National Convention and constitution drafting process in Burma. [155717]

Meg Munn: We have repeatedly called on the regime to make progress towards genuine national reconciliation by involving all political and ethnic groups in the National Convention process. Many of these groups did not participate in the National Convention and have not been consulted on the constitutional drafting process. We therefore believe the process lacks all credibility.

Burma: Religious Freedom

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Belief on violations of religious freedom against Christians, Muslims and Buddhists in Burma. [155718]

Meg Munn: There are severe restrictions on the freedom of all religions in Burma, including towards members of the majority Buddhist faith, particularly if they are perceived as anti-government. We condemn all instances where individuals face persecution or discrimination because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

We have had no discussions with the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Belief about Burma.

We regularly raise our concerns about human rights in Burma with the regime and in international forums. The UN Secretary-General discussed Burma with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 26 September and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 28 September.

On 2 October, the Human Rights Council (HRC) passed a strongly worded resolution sponsored by the EU, with the full support of the UK, which expressed deep concern about the situation in Burma. In our statement to the HRC, we drew attention to the regime's violations, including restrictions on the freedom of religion.

Chad

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his European counterparts on a European Union military mission to Chad during the meeting of Foreign Ministers in Viana do Castelo, Portugal, 7 to 8 September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [156603]

Meg Munn: The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 July approved a European Security and Defence Policy mission to Chad as a bridging force until the UN itself is able to deploy a peacekeeping mission there. The UK strongly endorsed this proposed deployment. The meeting of Foreign Ministers in Viana do Castelo, Portugal, on 7 to 8 September, discussed the implementation of this decision.

On 25 September the UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1778, which authorised the deployment of an EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic and approved a UN multi-dimensional mission to operate in co-operation with the EU force. The UK hopes that both the EU mission and the UN multi-dimensional mission will be able to deploy before the end of the year.

Chad: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that the EU peacekeeping force in Chad will have a mandate to protect internally displaced people within Chad as well as refugees from Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [153880]

Meg Munn: On 25 September the UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1778, which authorises the deployment of a European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) force to Chad and the Central African Republic and approves a UN multi-dimensional mission to operate in co-operation with the ESDP force.

As stated in UNSCR 1778, the ESDP force's 12 month mandate is to contribute to protecting refugees and displaced persons in eastern Chad, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and contribute to protecting the UN operation. The UN operation is intended to build the capacity of the Chadian police to protect refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic and internally displaced persons and help create a more secure environment in eastern Chad. The overall aim of the joint operation is to create the conditions necessary for voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will urge the Chinese Government to release unconditionally Pastor Hua Huiqi and his mother Ms Shuang Shuying from detention. [154406]

Meg Munn: Pastor Hua Huiqi was released in July this year after serving his six-month sentence. We raised the case of Shuang Shuying, through the EU, at the most recent round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, which was held in Berlin in May. We continue to monitor her case.

China: Sudan

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work is being undertaken with the People's Republic of China to combat the conflict in Darfur. [155941]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have asked their Chinese counterparts to use their influence in Sudan in support of the UN and African Union efforts to resolve the Darfur conflict, and to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between north and south Sudan. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, reinforced this message during his visit to China on 28-29 August when he said that

"we want China to be a major international player in the world; there is no alternative for the world but to have a responsible China sitting at the global table, helping to solve global issues".

We are working with Chinese officials on preparations for the peace talks for Darfur planned to start on 27 October and on early recovery efforts in Darfur.

Defence Attache Network

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK's relationship with those countries affected by the review of the Defence Attache Network; and what responses he has received from such countries on the review. [153742]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government continue to place a high value on their international defence relations. In announcing the results of the Defence Attaché review, my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary made clear in his written ministerial statement on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 125WS our belief that this rebalancing of resources, which involves strengthening our representation in some countries and reducing it in others, including through non-resident accreditation, will ensure a network which is effective and relevant to our international interests. We have not received any formal responses from countries affected by this review.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial year *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156679]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No accounts directions were issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in these financial years.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155869]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Annual expenditure on external consultants is published in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Department's annual reports, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. The two most recent annual reports also contain details of expenditure on the top five consultancy suppliers. The vast majority of work undertaken for the FCO by consultants is associated with its major Information Communication Technology and Estate construction programmes.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), the then Minister for Europe gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1474W and the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the then Foreign Secretary gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 893-94W.

Diplomatic Relations: Members

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* peers have been appointed special envoys to other nations since 1997. [156125]

Dr. Howells: Special representatives are appointed to show commitment and to drive progress on particular issues, or to gain access which would not otherwise be forthcoming. No central record of such appointments since 1997 is held. However, I understand that five right hon. and hon. Members and four Peers have been appointed as either special representatives or special envoys to other nations since 1997.

Entry Clearances

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa application processing centres have been outsourced; and what proportion of such applications are dealt with by such centres. [156486]

Dr. Howells: As at the end of September 2007, there were 85 outsourced Visa Application Centres. In September 2007, 57 per cent. of global UK visa applications were received and processed in Visa Application Centres.

EU Reform: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the likely impact of the EU Reform Treaty on UK military operations. [154255]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The current arrangements for UK military operations will not be affected by the EU Reform Treaty. The Treaty maintains the inter-governmental nature of the European Security and Defence Policy. It will not affect the UK's ability to undertake military operations, whether national or in a multilateral framework. The UK will continue to make forces available for EU-led operations on a voluntary and case-by-case basis. The launch of any EU operation requires unanimity among member states, therefore UK consent and any decision to deploy UK troops for an EU-led operation rests with the Government.

EU Reform: Climate Change

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of how changes to qualified majority voting in the European reform treaty would affect the ability of the UK and the EU to promote the environment and fight climate change. [156138]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Energy policy will move to qualified majority voting (QMV) in the reform treaty, making it easier to liberalise energy markets and improve energy security. More open markets will promote energy efficiency and allow consumers greater choice—which should reward green technologies.

This will make it easier to achieve targets agreed at the spring European Council.

Energy is an example of where the reform treaty moves to QMV can unlock decision-making in Britain's interests.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government will seek any modifications to the revised European Constitution. [154586]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2006W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in how many policy areas vetoes will be given up by the UK if the constitutional treaty comes into force; and what those areas are. [156473]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1468-69W.

European Union: UK Delegation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the office of the UK Permanent Representative to the EU, Strasbourg and UK Delegation to the Council of Europe Strasbourg do not share offices; and what the *(a)* cost of each office, *(b)* numbers of staff in each office and *(c)* floor space of each office was in the latest period for which figures are available. [156009]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK Permanent Representation to the EU does not have an office in Strasbourg. The office space used by UK officials is owned by the European Parliament and this is made available to the UK at no cost.

The UK Delegation to the Council of Europe occupies a building of 327 square metres in a residential area of Strasbourg. The office staff consists of five UK based staff and three locally recruited full-time staff plus one

part time. The rental of the office in financial year (FY) 2006-07 was £31,181. The office running costs (utilities, rates, repairs and refurbishments) were £33,199 in FY 2006-07.

Iraq: Casualties

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi *(a)* child and *(b)* adult civilian casualties there have been since March 2003. [156671]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not collate figures for civilian casualties in Iraq. The Government of Iraq is best placed to monitor the numbers of Iraqi civilian casualties, but we continue to believe that there are no comprehensive or reliable figures for deaths since March 2003 as estimates vary according to the method of collection.

Iraq: Oil

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK Government have made to the Iraqi government on the proposed Iraqi oil law; what advice has been given in relation to the partners with whom the Iraqi government should deal and the terms on which it should do so; and if he will make a statement. [156703]

Dr. Howells: We have encouraged the Iraqi government to consider a full range of options in formulating the hydrocarbons law and to consult widely. We have made no representations on specific structures or production contracts nor have we provided advice on whom the Iraqi government should deal with.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* coalition forces and *(b)* the international community are to be involved in the investigation by the Iraqi authorities into neglect and abuse of children in Iraqi orphanages and other institutions; and if he will make a statement. [156086]

Dr. Howells: The Government are aware of US military reports in June that they discovered a number of abused and neglected children at an Iraqi orphanage in Baghdad. In response to these reports, the Iraqi Prime Minister announced an Iraqi Government investigation into the conditions at the orphanage. The UK has had no direct involvement in this investigation, nor are we aware of direct coalition or wider international involvement.

The UK is committed to supporting the Government of Iraq in its efforts to strengthen respect for human rights, with a particular focus on protecting the rights of the most vulnerable groups in society. In a country emerging from over three decades of dictatorship and which currently faces continued violence, this process will take time. We are working with the Government of Iraq and international partners to develop the infrastructure essential for promoting and protecting human rights, including a legislative framework and oversight bodies as well as the judiciary, courts, and independent civil society organisations. This will help ensure that the human rights of all Iraqis, including vulnerable groups such as women, children and minorities, are protected in the future.

Irian Jaya

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to facilitate dialogue between the Indonesian government and representatives of the West Papuan Freedom Movement; [156434]

(2) what assessment he has made of the prison conditions of West Papua independence campaigners, with particular reference to *(a)* Filep Karma and *(b)* Yusak Pakage; [156459]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the situation in West Papua; [156466]

(4) what representations he has made to the Government of Indonesia on the humanitarian situation in West Papua; [156467]

(5) what recent discussions he has had with the British Embassy in Jakarta on the situation in West Papua; [156468]

(6) what discussions he has had with the UN Special Representative, Hina Jilani, following her recent visit to West Papua; and what recent reports he has received from the UK Mission to the UN following the visit; [156469]

(7) what assessment he has made of the situation for environmental activists in West Papua. [156471]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made representations about Papua to the Government of Indonesia.

Our embassy in Jakarta regularly discusses Papua with the Indonesian authorities and pushes for greater EU engagement on human rights issues including those related to Papua. The human rights situation in Indonesia has improved considerably in recent years and we assess that President Yudhoyono is sincere in his attempts to push through reforms, including in the security sector. The current peace process in Aceh is an indication of his willingness to be flexible in trying to address some of the long-running conflicts in Indonesia, and success here will make it easier for him to address the Papuan question effectively.

We believe that the best way to resolve the complex issues in Papua is through promoting peaceful dialogue between Papuan groups and the Indonesian government. We are in contact with Papuan activist groups in the UK and encourage dialogue between them and the Government of Indonesia.

We are not aware of any specific issues concerning environmental activists in Papua.

Officials from our embassy in Jakarta have raised the cases of Filip Karma and Yusak Pakage with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their defence lawyer told embassy officials that prison conditions were adequate and the two men were treated reasonably.

We have urged the Government of Indonesia to uphold the rights guaranteed through the International Conventions on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by Indonesia in September 2005.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is aware of the visit to Indonesia by UN Special Representative, Hina Jilani, but has had no direct discussion with her on the issue of Papua. Ms Jilani has received no reports from the UK Mission to the UN following her visit.

The UK, with our EU partners, is working towards greater engagement with the Indonesian government in support of human rights defenders. The EU presidency is in the process of discussing the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and hopes to work with them on this important issue in the near future.

North Korea: Political Prisoners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his North Korean counterpart on prisoners being held in prison camps for their *(a)* political and *(b)* religious beliefs. [155975]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials raise human rights issues—including arbitrary detention of prisoners for political and/or religious reasons—with members of the North Korean government at every reasonable opportunity. We do so through our embassy in Pyongyang and through contact with the North Korean embassy in London, as well as through the EU and UN.

We and EU partners have also been instrumental in creating—and retaining—the position of UN Special Rapporteur on Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) human rights, and have sponsored a number of UN resolutions calling on the North Korean government to honour its UN commitments on human rights. The UN has also lobbied the government on specific individuals' cases.

The Government will continue to press the North Korean authorities on human rights abuses at every opportunity, urging them in particular to cooperate with UN mechanisms and to allow international monitors access to the country to verify or disprove reports of human rights abuses. It is deeply frustrating that the DPRK government has not responded to these requests.

Northern Cyprus

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many official visits by members of the British High Commission in Cyprus to northern Cyprus were made in each of the last three years; and what reports were received by the Department in London following each such visit. [156207]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It would incur disproportionate cost to collate the information requested by my hon. Friend on the number of official visits from staff at our High Commission in Nicosia to northern Cyprus. However, the High Commission's operation in Cyprus covers the whole territory of the Republic of Cyprus, providing services and engaging with Cypriots on both sides of the Green Line on a daily basis. Reports of their discussions are reported to the Department as necessary.

Northern Cyprus: Churches

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a senior official from the British high commission in Cyprus last visited the Greek Cypriot churches and cemeteries in the villages of Patriki and Ayios Theodoros in the Karpas Peninsula; what reports were made and to whom after the last such visit; if he will make it his policy for such a visit to be conducted on a regular basis and reports published; and if he will make a statement. [156209]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our high commissioner in Nicosia last visited the Greek Cypriot community in the Karpas region on 22 June and reported to the Department. This included visiting the church in Ayios Theodoros and was part of a regular pattern of visits which supplement the UN's humanitarian and monitoring activity. Since the opening of the Green Line in April 2003, Greek Cypriots resident in the south have also been able to travel to the area.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what responsibilities the British Government have as one of the guarantor powers for Cyprus to seek to ensure the preservation of churches and cemeteries that belong to the Greek Cypriot community in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [156210]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty of Guarantee only relates to the independence, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Cyprus. However, we do call on the Turkish Cypriots to show sensitivity to Greek Cypriot churches and cemeteries in the north of Cyprus. Our high commissioner in Nicosia visited the Karpas region on 22 June and raised such issues with his Turkish Cypriot interlocutors.

Northern Cyprus: Property

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the advice given to British citizens seeking to purchase a property in northern Cyprus; what steps the Government have taken to promulgate that advice; and if he will make a statement. [156202]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Through Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Travel Advice, the Government offers comprehensive guidance on the risks involved in purchasing property in northern Cyprus. This advice is regularly updated to reflect developments. We also provide advice over the phone to members of the public calling both the FCO and our High Commission in Nicosia.

We believe that the difficult and complex issue of property is only likely to be fully resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement and we urge both sides

to engage constructively with the United Nations to enable settlement negotiations to start as soon as possible. In our contacts with the Turkish Cypriot leadership, we recognise the Turkish Cypriots' need for economic development in support of reunification. But we urge them to ensure that any property development which does take place does so in a manner that is both environmentally sustainable and does not complicate an eventual solution.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of properties *(a)* built and *(b)* under construction by property developers in northern Cyprus in each of the last five years which are available for purchase. [156204]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have not estimated the number of properties which have been built or which are under construction in northern Cyprus. However, significant property development in northern Cyprus has taken place over the last five years resulting in large numbers of new properties being built. We believe that the difficult and complex issue of property is only likely to be fully resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement and we urge both sides to engage constructively with the United Nations to enable settlement negotiations to start as soon as possible. In our contacts with the Turkish Cypriot leadership, we recognise the Turkish Cypriots' need for economic development in support of reunification. But we urge them to ensure that any property development which does take place does so in a manner that is both environmentally sustainable and does not complicate an eventual solution.

Occupied Territories: Peace Negotiations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of the Mecca agreement as a basis for peace between Israel and the Palestinians following the break down of the Palestinian Unity Government. [156344]

Dr. Howells: The Mecca agreement of 9 February 2007, was drawn up by Palestinian parties to end their political deadlock. The outcomes of the agreement were:

cessation of intra-Palestinian violence;

formation of a National Unity government;

reformation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; and

the need for political co-operation within the laws of the Palestinian National Authority.

The agreement was focused on intra-Palestinian relations and as such has no direct impact on Israeli-Palestinians relations. However, we welcome any progress towards a negotiated, lasting solution.

Pakistan: Taliban

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he is holding with the Pakistan Government to co-ordinate border control between Pakistan and Afghanistan to stop Taliban activists entering Afghanistan. [156297]

Dr. Howells: Afghanistan-Pakistan border security issues feature prominently in our dialogue with the Government of Pakistan at both ministerial and official levels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last raised the subject with Pakistan Foreign Minister Kasuri in Islamabad on 26 July.

Russia: CFE Treaty

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for Russia's suspension of its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [153754]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* With North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Allies, we have noted Russia's statement of its intention to suspend its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE treaty) from 12 December. We would regret any threat to the CFE regime from such unilateral action. We believe the concerns expressed by Russia would be addressed by entry into force of the adapted CFE treaty. We are pursuing constructive proposals for parallel action by Allies and Russia to overcome the outstanding issues related to ratification of that adapted treaty.

Sri Lanka

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to meet *(a)* the President and *(b)* the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. [155836]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to meet the President or Prime Minster of Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister may have an opportunity to meet President Rajapakse or Prime Minister Wickramanayake at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala, Uganda in November.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sri Lankan Government regarding human rights abuses in Sri Lanka. [155837]

Dr. Howells: We raise human rights issues regularly in our contact with the Government of Sri Lanka. Most recently, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, expressed our concern on 27 September during a bilateral meeting with the Sri Lankan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rohitha Bogollagama, in the margins of the UN General Assembly.

The situation in Sri Lanka was also highlighted by the UK and the EU at the 6th Human Rights Council in September. We look forward to the report of the visit to Sri Lanka by Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is due to take place later this month.

Sudan: Asylum

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Ethiopian and Eritrean asylum seekers and refugees at risk of being forcibly returned to their country of origin from Sudan following their detention in Khartoum in July. [153879]

Meg Munn: Amnesty International (AI) reported on 20 July the arrest and risk of forcible return of Ethiopian and Eritrean asylum seekers in Sudan. According to AI, many of those detained could be asylum seekers or recognised refugees.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been seeking access to, and intervene on the behalf of, refugees who have been detained by the Sudanese authorities. Some of these refugees were handed over to the Commissioner for Refugees in August, but 25 Ethiopians and Eritreans were reportedly sentenced to deportation and removed before UNHCR had a chance to appeal.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the treatment of refugees in Sudan, in particular those from Eritrea. [154565]

Meg Munn: According to reports from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), refugees arriving in Sudan undergo a refugee status determination process at one of the recognised refugee camps near Kassala in the border area with Eritrea. Refugees should remain in the camps and are not normally granted the right to travel from a designated area.

Sudanese law enforcement bodies carry out periodic round-ups of migrant workers whom they deport, although some of them have recognised refugee status. UNHCR has a legal team to attend cases where recognised refugees have been arrested.

Some of these refugees were handed over to the Commissioner for Refugees in August, but 25 Ethiopians and Eritreans were reportedly sentenced to deportation and removed before UNHCR had a chance to appeal.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Sudan about *(a)* the treatment of refugees and *(b)* abiding by UNHCR protocols and commitments. [154566]

Meg Munn: Ministers have not discussed the treatment of refugees with the government of Sudan.

However, officials from our embassy in Khartoum have raised the status of refugees in Sudan with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to whom we give strong support. As a result of UNHCR's lobbying, the government of Sudan has set up a committee to revise domestic legislation on asylum. We continue to monitor the progress of asylum law reform through UNHCR.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received that the government of Sudan has in the past month begun to move to return Eritrean refugees. [154568]

Meg Munn: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sudan reported in August that Ethiopians and Eritreans were arrested and detained in Khartoum and various towns in eastern Sudan and threatened with expulsion.

As a result of legal assistance from UNHCR, several individuals were handed over to UNHCR to determine their refugee status. But 25 Eritreans and Ethiopians were sentenced to deportation, which was carried out before UNHCR could intervene.

The UK supports UNHCR to ensure refugees are afforded protection and treated equitably in their countries of refuge according to international human rights law.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial and other support he is making available to resolve the problems in Darfur. [155863]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made resolution of the Darfur conflict a priority for the Government. In his joint initiative with French President Sarkozy, he offered further development assistance dependent on progress on security, cessation of hostilities, political process and humanitarian access.

Meanwhile, the UK is helping diplomatically, politically and financially.

The UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1769, which mandates the African Union (AU)/UN peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) for Darfur. UNAMID costs will be met through UN assessed contributions. The UK has committed £73 million to support the AU Mission (AMIS) in Darfur since it deployed in July 2004.

To support the political process, the UK has committed £2 million of funding since July 2006 to the AMIS Information Advisory Team which will support communication activities for the peace talks. We will also provide financial and technical support to the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team who are leading the peace process.

The UK, through the Department for International Development (DFID), is working with UN, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other partners to resource community-level peace and confidence-building activities to complement the political process. The UK has committed £2.18 million to a UN programme to address livelihoods and environmental challenges—key drivers of the conflict.

Finally, DFID's programme makes the UK the second largest bilateral donor to Sudan, spending some £145 million in humanitarian funding in Darfur since the start of the crisis in 2003. We also have a bilateral

programme with NGOs (£12 million per annum) to provide water, sanitation and health care to some of the four million people in need.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the African Union and UN have taken to ensure that rebel groups in Darfur receive training to develop the skills required to take part in peace process negotiations. [153881]

Meg Munn: The African Union-UN Joint Mediation Support Team (JMST) has developed a mediation plan and is appointing mediators who will support rebel groups in negotiations.

The UK and international partners are supporting the JMST's preparations for negotiations. The UK has given the JMST papers on lessons learned from previous peace talks, including the Comprehensive Peace Agreement security negotiations, and has recommended mediation experts.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to ensure participation of the people of eastern Sudan in the national executive, legislature, judiciary organs, civil service and other institutions and commissions at both national and state levels in accordance with Chapter 1 of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement; and what progress has been made in this regard. [153882]

Meg Munn: The government of Sudan has appointed Eastern Front (EF) representatives to posts including an assistant to the President, a presidential adviser and a Minister of State. The EF's candidates took up their positions in August. In June 2006, eight government members of the National Parliament resigned to make way for the EF Members of Parliament. EF representatives have also been appointed to state level governments both in the east and in Khartoum state.

The Civil Service Commission called for by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was only formed in August this year. The EF have not yet provided nominations to this and other CPA Commissions.

Our embassy in Khartoum discussed implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) with assistant to the President ,Musa Muhammad Ahmad of the EF, on 1 October. They made clear our support for the ESPA and the need to see both sides fully to implement its provisions, including those on power-sharing.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement has ensured transparency in appropriate sharing of financial resources across all states through the fiscal and financial allocation and monitoring commission. [153883]

Meg Munn: The Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement does not include any provisions on wealth sharing between Khartoum and the eastern states, although it has established a Reconstruction and Development Fund for Eastern Sudan.

Fiscal relations between the federal and state governments in Sudan are covered in the Wealth Sharing Protocol of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The UK monitors the implementation of the Protocol, and the activities of the Fiscal and Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission (FFAMC) set up to carry this out, through its participation in the Wealth Sharing Group of the CPA Assessment and Evaluation Commission.

The FFAMC proposed a revised formula for the allocation of revenue which was adopted for the 2007 federal budget. This new formula should result in the more equitable allocation of resources, although evidence to date shows that there are still some discrepancies between budgeted and actual transfers.

The UK continues to monitor the new arrangements for wealth sharing and to work with others, including the World Bank, to bring about fiscal reform across Sudan.

Ukraine: Entry Clearances

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what rationale supported the decision to require applications from Ukraine for settlement in the UK to be submitted by appointment only. [154508]

Dr. Howells: The visa section in Kiev took the decision to introduce an appointment system for settlement visa applications in order to manage more effectively the number of applications received per day.

The number of settlement visa appointments has been set at seven per day from 1 October. This will improve customer service by providing pre-arranged appointment times for applicants who will no longer be subject to unpredictable waiting times at the visa section.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what minimum notice period may be given of appointments to submit applications for settlement in the UK from Ukraine. [154509]

Dr. Howells: There is currently a minimum six-day notice period for appointments to submit an application for settlement in the UK from Ukraine.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration is given to the distances that have to be travelled to attend appointments, when giving notice of appointments to submit applications for settlement in the UK from Ukraine. [154510]

Dr. Howells: If an applicant for a settlement visa to the UK from the Ukraine is unable to attend their appointment due to the distance they need to travel they are able to book a new appointment. This will not affect the outcome of their visa application.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund: Grants

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what investigations took place into the activities of the *(a)* Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* the New Kadempa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International before the Department took the final decision to grant funds to each organisation from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. [156700]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department considered information received from the Information Network Focus on religious movements who provide objective information to Government relating to minority religious groups before agreeing that the funding could be released.

Audit Commission: Teammate International Forum

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of the Audit Commission attending the Teammate International Forum in Tampa, Florida in November 2006. [155716]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 4 October 2007:

I am writing in response to your parliamentary question asking what the (a) cost and (b) purpose was of the Audit Commission attending the Teammate International Forum in Tampa, Florida.

The Audit Commission sent two delegates to the TeamMate International Forum at a total cost of £1,912.

TeamMate is the Commission's electronic working paper software and is fundamental to our core business. It is a proprietary product marketed around the globe by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The Commission is the single largest user of this application worldwide. Every two years PwC organises an international users' conference.

The principal purpose of our attendance at the conference was to maintain up-to-date knowledge of how the product is being used elsewhere and planned future developments of the software. The secondary purpose was to network with other users to learn from them and ensure we keep our audit tools as efficient as possible. Attendance at the event also gives us an opportunity to influence the future development of the product to meet our developing business needs.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Buildings: Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on whether the forthcoming requirement for buildings over 1,000 square metres to display an energy certificate and advisory report applies to *(a)* churches and places of worship, *(b)* train stations, *(c)* venues licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 for the sale of alcohol and *(d)* care homes; and if she will make a statement. [153817]

Yvette Cooper: The Display Energy Certificate requirement will apply to buildings over 1,000 sq m that are occupied by a public authority or an institution providing a public service to a large number of persons. We are continuing to work with key stakeholders and will publish further guidance in due course.

Buildings: Standards

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the merits of changing the building regulations to require all new build homes to be built to lifetime home standards; [155968]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of requiring 10 per cent. of all new build housing to be wheelchair accessible throughout. [155969]

Mr. Iain Wright: The costs and benefits of lifetime homes, which include wheelchair accessibility, are set out in the Department's consultation document "The future of the Code for Sustainable Homes—making a rating mandatory" published on 23 July 2007 with a closing date for comment of 23 October 2007. The document proposes making lifetime homes standards mandatory within the code at progressively lower levels of the code over time.

There is currently no proposal to change the building regulations to require all new build homes to be built to lifetime home standards. However, the Government have stated, in its response to Kate Barker's report on Housing Supply, that

> "It is very important that there is progress on increasing take up of the lifetime homes standard. The Government will monitor take up and review the future need for regulation if appropriate."

Casinos: Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals relating to casinos or with a casino element have been considered by *(a)* the Planning Inspectorate and *(b)* the First Secretary of State since November 2005. [155686]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has not decided any planning applications that have included a casino element since November 2005. In the same period, the Planning Inspectorate have decided eight appeals for developments with a casino element, of which five have been allowed and three dismissed. Details of these can be found in the following tables.

Appeals involving casinos decided since 1 November 2005 by The Planning Inspectorate

Decision	Number
Allowed	5
Dismissed	3
Total	8

Note:
Data as at 3 October 2007. Ref: 294-07-08
Source:
PINS SIU Data Mart

Appeal Ref No	Local planning authority	Type of appeal	Date of appeal decision	Decision outcome	Description of the development	Site address
PINS						
1197569	Guildford	Planning appeal	12 July 2006	Allowed	use as a casino complex incorporating a1,a2,a3,a4 and d2 uses. use as a leisure complex including a1,a2,a3,a4,a5 & d2 uses	The Drink & Bar Mambo &, Nos 1-5 The Quadrant, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4SQ
2007910	Sandwell	Planning appeal	14 July 2006	Allowed	change of use from a3 to d2 (public house to casino) and two storey extension , car parking including carports to rear.	"The Barleycorn" public house, Bearwood Road/Dawson Street, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4ES
2019042	Guildford	Listed Building/ Conservation Area Consent appeal	21 May 2007	Dismissed	Conservation area consent for the demolition of all existing buildings, to facilitate redevelopment comprising a new 8 storey building fronting Onslow Street/Bridge Street to provide a leisure and entertainment complex to accommodate a casino and associated uses, attached at first floor and above to a 7 storey building to the West comprising a 136 bedroom hotel with 10 suites and including conference facilities, 5 retail units, bar and restaurant, spa and gym, continuation of the casino at first floor, reducing 3 storeys in Bedford Road adjacent to the River Wey footbridge and 4 stories Southwards adjacent to the River Wey towards the Onslow Bridge.	The Drink, Bar Mambo, 1-5 The Quadrant Inc. Car Park & Clark Gammon Auctioneers, 2-5 Bedford Rd, Guildford, GU1 4SJ
2019043	Guildford	Planning appeal	21 May 2007	Dismissed	Conservation area consent for the demolition of all existing buildings, to facilitate redevelopment comprising a new 8 storey building fronting Onslow Street/Bridge Street to provide a leisure and entertainment complex to accommodate a casino and associated uses, attached at first floor and above to a 7 storey building to the West comprising a 136 bedroom hotel with 10 suites and including conference facilities, 5 retail units, bar and restaurant, spa and gym, continuation of the casino at first floor, reducing 3 storeys in Bedford Road adjacent to the River Wey footbridge and 4 stories Southwards adjacent to the River Wey towards the Onslow Bridge.	The Drink, Bar Mambo, 1-5 The Quadrant Inc. Car Park & Clark Gammon Auctioneers, 2-5 Bedford Rd, Guildford, GU1 4SJ
2023570	Blackpool	Planning appeal	15 May 2007	Allowed	change of use to casino	Palatine Buildings, Promenade, Blackpool , Lancashire , FY1 4TQ
2023572	Blackpool	Planning appeal	15 May 2007	Allowed	change of use to casino	Palatine Buildings, Promenade, Blackpool , Lancashire , FY1 4TQ
2030693	City of Westminster	Planning appeal	27 February 2007	Dismissed	use from restaurant (class a3) on the ground floor (includes 91-92) to casino (sui generis)	91 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6JB
2041173	Bournemouth	Listed Building/ Conservation Area Consent appeal	23 July 2007	Allowed	new external signage to replace existing.	Stanley Bournemouth Casino, 9 Yelverton Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1DA

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether concerns over problem gambling may be considered as a material factor when assessing a planning application for a casino. [155697]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 268W.

Community Development

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what individuals and organisations have been invited to discussions and meetings with her Department on community integration and cohesion issues in the last 12 months. [156425]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government (CLG) is responsible for coordinating and delivering work to build community integration and cohesion in local areas. We do this by meeting with and consulting a wide range of stakeholders both within Whitehall, and the regions.

We also meet routinely with local authorities, LGA and the IDEA, to discuss the important work of building community cohesion and promoting integration.

In order to ensure we deliver real life policy, CLG also meets and consults with a wide range of grass roots individuals and organisation involved in delivering cohesion at the sharp end.

The Commission on Integration and Cohesion, which ran from August 2006 to June 2007, was supported by a small CLG secretariat, which undertook research on their behalf, and co-ordinated an outreach programme that meant they engaged with over 2000 people through round tables, regional visits, and user forums.

A comprehensive list of all individuals and organisations met could only be produced at disproportionate cost, but to inform its approach to developing and promoting integration and community cohesion, CLG has met:

Groundwork UK
HACT
CLG's Neighbourhood Renewal Advisors
National Community Forum (NCF)
Race Equality Action Group (REAG)
Community Security Trust
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Chief Rabbi's Office
Jewish Leadership Council
Skillsforce
Institute of Community Cohesion (ICOCO)
Muslim Safety Forum
MCHC Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre
The Participation Works
Representatives of the South Asian Development Partnership
ACPO National Community Tensions Team
Citizenship Foundation
Serious Organised Crime Agency
LB Barking and Dagenham
Welsh Assembly
Parliamentary Committee Against Anti-Semitism
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board

Officials in CLG have on occasion also met with representatives from overseas seeking to exchange good practice on integration and cohesion.

Departments: Berkeley Group

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 735W, on Departments: Berkeley Group, whether the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) met with *(a)* directors, representatives or lawyers acting for and *(b)* employees of (i) Berkeley Group Holdings plc, (ii) St George plc, (iii) Berkeley Homes plc, (iv) St James Group Ltd, (v) Berkeley First Ltd, (vi) Berkeley Commercial Development Ltd and (vii) Berkeley Strategic Land Ltd in a Ministerial capacity in the last three years; and whether any officials in her Department attended such meetings. [156240]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. As a general point of principle, information relating to such meetings is not normally disclosed.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which private consultancy firms *(a)* her Department and *(b)* agencies which report to her Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155898]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1170W, which lists those 10 Communities Programmes which accounted for the most consultancy spend.

Departments: Private Finance Initiatives

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the signed local authority private finance initiative projects for which her Department is responsible. [154457]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of all signed PFI projects are recorded on HM Treasury's website which is maintained through returns provided by each Government Department on a twice yearly basis during budget reporting periods.

A list of signed local authority private finance initiative projects which are sponsored by Communities and Local Government is available from HM Treasury's website on the following link:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list her

Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156674]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government was established on 5 May 2006. The information requested can be found in Note 33 of the Departments resource accounts 2006-07 at the following web link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/corporate/resourceaccounts06-07

Fire Services

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the location is of each fire local control room in England, broken down by region; and how many people are employed at each. [156579]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table gives the location of the current fire service control rooms by region and the number of staff employed in the control rooms as at 2006-07.

Region	*FRS*	*Location*	*Number of control room staff as at 2006-07*
East of England	Bedfordshire	Kempston	30
	Cambridgeshire	Huntingdon	23
	Essex	Brentwood	49
	Hertfordshire	Stevenage	26
	Norfolk	Hathersett	30
	Suffolk	Ipswich	25
Regional total			183
East Midlands	Derbyshire	Derby	26
	Leicestershire	Glenfield	31
	Lincolnshire	Lincoln	23
	Northamptonshire	Moulton	23
	Nottinghamshire	Arnold, Nottingham	26
Regional total			129
London	London	Greenwich View Place	114
North East	County of Durham and Darlington	Durham	26
	Northumberland	Morpeth	23
	Cleveland	Hartlepool	27
	Tyne and Wear	Newcastle	37
Regional total			113
North-west	Cheshire	Winsford	25
	Cumbria	Cockermouth	18
	Greater Manchester	Swinton	45
	Lancashire	Preston	67
	Merseyside	Liverpool	55
Regional total			210
South East	Berkshire	Reading	30
	Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury	20
	East Sussex	Lewes	26
	Hampshire	Petersfield	40
	Kent	Maidstone	39
	Isle of Wight	Newport	13
	Oxfordshire	Kidlington	20
	Surrey	Reigate	29
	West Sussex	Chichester	31
Regional total			248
South West	Avon	Lansdowne near Bath	28
	Cornwall	Truro	15
	Devon	Exeter	24
	Dorset	Dorchester	26
	Gloucestershire	Gloucester	24
	Somerset	Taunton	20
	Wiltshire	Swindon	26
Regional total			163
Yorkshire and Humberside	Humberside	Hessle, Hull	29
	North Yorkshire	Northallerton	22
	South Yorkshire	Sheffield	41
	West Yorkshire	Birkenshaw	54
Regional total			146
West Midlands	Hereford and Worcester	Worcester	23
	Shropshire	Shrewsbury	17
	Staffordshire	Pirehill	31
	Warwickshire	Leamington Spa	21
	West Midlands	Birmingham	65
Regional total			157

Fire Services: Perfluoro Octane Sulphanate

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions in each of the last 10 years fire-fighting operations involved the use of materials containing perfluoro octane sulphanate. [155722]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Working Time Directive

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there is a derogation from the Working Time Directive for retained firefighters who have other employment. [155699]

Mr. Dhanda: Retained duty system firefighters are able to work beyond the 48 hours a week set by the working time regulations provided they have signed a waiver for their primary and secondary employment.

Flood Control

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of the probability of *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high flood risk in terms of the frequency in years at which an area is likely to flood. [156578]

Mr. Iain Wright: The definitions of *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high risk probability are defined in Table D.1. of Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) 'Development and Flood Risk', which Communities and Local Government published in December 2006.

The definitions are as follows:

(a) Low Probability (Flood Zone 1)

This zone comprises land assessed as having a less than one in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding in any year (<0.1%)

(b) Medium probability (Flood Zone 2)

This zone comprises land assessed as having between a one in 100 and one in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding (1 per cent. to 0.1 per cent. or between a one in 200 and one in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5 per cent. to 1 per cent.) in any year.

(c) High probability (Flood Zone 3a)

This zone comprises land assessed as having a one in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) or a one in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year.

These flood zones refer to the probability of river and sea flooding, ignoring the presence of defences as these can be breached, overtopped and may not be in existence for the lifetime of the development.

PPS 25 is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/154271

Green Belt

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of designated Green Belt land lost their Green Belt designation in each Government Office Region in England in each year since 1997. [155705]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the net amount of designated green belt land lost by Government office region in hectares for the years for which data is available.

Net area loss of designated green belt by Government office region

	Net losses in hectares between:		
Government office region	*1997 and 2003*	*2003 and 2004*	*2004 and 2006*
North East	—	—	—
North West	—	-20	-280
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—
East Midlands	-190	-40	-580
West Midlands	-30	—	-204
East	—	—	-448
London	-20	—	—
South East[1]	—	—	-47,630
South West	—	-230	—

[1] The 2004 to 2006 figure includes 47,300 hectares of designated green belt land in New Forest DC and Test Valley DC which was designated as New Forest National Park in 2005.

Excluding the 47,300 hectares of green belt land which was designated as National Park in 2005, the total amount of green belt increased across England by 27,850 hectares over the nine-year period 1997 to 2006.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been produced for local authorities on the enforcement of the home information pack regulations. [152384]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has produced procedural guidance for the home information pack regulations, including guidance on the enforcement provisions within the regulations. The Department has also produced guidance for enforcement authorities, following consultations with Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and the Trading Standards Institute (TSI).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum time is that a local authority and water search in a home information pack can remain in place before it must be renewed. [156562]

Yvette Cooper: The HIPs (No. 2) Regulations 2007 do not specify how long a search report should remain in place before it must be renewed but require that a search must not be older than three months at the first point of marketing.

Home Information Packs: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W, on home information packs: finance, by what mechanism funding is being provided to trading standards officers in Wales. [152684]

Yvette Cooper: Funding for trading standards officers in Wales is provided through the annual revenue settlement. Responsibility for the revenue settlement in Wales rests with the Welsh Assembly Government. In 2007-08 the settlement amounted to £3.7 billion.

Home Information Packs: Trading Standards Institute

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to trading standards officers on the enforcement of home information pack regulations. [152517]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (UIN 152384).

Home Information Packs: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances mortgage lenders and automated valuation suppliers may use information from the Energy Performance Certificate register for automated valuations. [153816]

Yvette Cooper: The disclosure of Energy Performance Certificates and information obtained from them, whether obtained directly from the register or otherwise, is limited to the purposes set down in the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007.

Homelessness: Expenditure

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent in London on rough sleepers by *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local authorities in each of the last five years. [156718]

Mr. Iain Wright: Homelessness grant is paid to local authorities to tackle homelessness, which includes rough sleeping. It is also paid direct to several voluntary sector agencies in London to help them tackle rough sleeping. Supporting People, introduced in 2003, also funds rough sleeper services. The following table indicates the amount of funding.

In addition to the moneys outlined in the table, an extra £63 million has been made available under the Hotels Capital Improvement Programme in the last three years to improve hostels and day centres used by rough sleepers in London.

	£
Homelessness Grant paid to local authorities in London to tackle homelessness, including tackling rough sleeping	
2003-04	24,452,574
2004-05	22,085,000
2005-06	21,080,764
2006-07	22,676,155
2007-08	21,771,500
Homelessness Grant paid direct to voluntary sector organisations in London to tackle rough sleeping	
2003-04	20,288,079
2004-05	9,225,948
2005-06	8,906,031
2006-07	9,168,031
2007-08	9,448,000
Supporting People programme—London rough sleeping	
2003-04	8,474,084
2004-05	8,373,174
2005-06	11,971,500
2006-07	12,753,861

Housing

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the housing stock in England is made up of three bedroom homes. [155696]

Yvette Cooper: The Survey of English Housing reported that 45 per cent. of households in England lived in three-bedroom dwellings in the financial year 2005-06.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of her Department's target of building 240,000 new dwellings a year in England she expects to be built by *(a)* local authorities as council housing stock, *(b)* housing associations for social tenure and *(c)* the private sector for private sale. [155858]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are committed to tackling the problems of housing affordability and have announced plans to raise the annual housing supply target for 2016 from 200,000 to 240,000 additional homes a year.

The recent Housing Green Paper "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" sets out further details of our proposals, including Government's plans for the level of affordable housing to be delivered in the years covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review, supported by investment of at least £8 billion. We are increasing outputs of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 by 2010-11 of which 45,000 will be for new social rented homes—50 per cent. more than this year, 2007-08.

The detail of where additional housing of various types will be located is a matter for regional and local planning processes and functions.

Housing: Disabled

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many local authorities with housing responsibilities in England have an adapted homes register; [155970]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of requiring all local authorities with housing responsibilities to maintain an adapted homes register; [155971]

(3) what assessment she has made of the merits of the creation of a nationwide adapted homes register. [155972]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect information about social landlords who hold adapted homes registers (otherwise known as accessible housing registers).

The Government want to see social landlords make the best use of housing stock, including accommodation which is accessible or has been adapted. We recognise that accessible housing registers can be useful and the current statutory guidance to local authorities on the allocation of accommodation encourages their use.

The Department's Disability Equality Scheme published in December 2006 includes a commitment to establish whether and what the role is for accessible housing registers (AHRs) within the context of our choice-based lettings policy[1] and the development of the National Register of Social Housing (NROSH).

NROSH will be a central record of each individual unit of social housing (local authority and housing association stock). This includes property referencing, size type and age of dwelling, category of provision, decent homes standard, accessibility, tenure, rent, service charges and vacancy status. The Data Standards document describing these fields is on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingdataprojects/nationalregister

Data collection is not yet complete.

In addition, the Department is providing support (£760,000 over two years 2006--08) to develop a pan-London choice-based lettings scheme ('Capital Moves') including the development of a London-wide accessible housing register.

[1] CBL schemes are about advertising available social housing for which applicants can bid. We have set a target for all local authorities to have implemented CBL by 2010.

Housing: Energy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an energy performance certificate will need to be commissioned for a new build domestic dwelling for sale. [152411]

Yvette Cooper: Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) will be required on the sale of all new dwellings. Where an EPC has been obtained on construction, it can be reused if the property is resold within the certificate's validity period.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition she uses of overcrowding in relation to social housing. [153695]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under the standards set out in Section 324 of Part 10 of the Housing Act 1985 a dwelling is overcrowded when the number of people sleeping in the dwelling is such as to contravene either the 'room standard' or the 'space standard'.

The room standard is breached if the number of people sleeping in a dwelling, and the number of rooms available as sleeping accommodation, are such that two people of opposite sexes who are not living together as husband and wife must sleep in the same room. Children under 10 do not count.

The space standard specifies the maximum number of people who may sleep in a dwelling, and in the available rooms within it, having regard to (i) the number of available rooms of 50 square feet or more and (ii) the floor area of each room. Two calculations are required and the lower number applies. Babies under one year old do not count, and children between one and 10 count as half.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether National Register of Social Housing is maintained in-house or by an external company. [153910]

Yvette Cooper: The National Register of Social Housing is a database containing information on the individual dwellings which make up the stock of social housing in England. It is under development and currently contains records of 30 per cent. of the stock. The database is maintained in house by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council-owned houses have been built for rent in each West Midlands metropolitan district since 1997. [156717]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of council-owned houses built for rent for the period 1996-97 to 2006-07 as reported by the seven West Midlands metropolitan districts is shown as follows:

	Permanent dwellings completed by local authorities
Birmingham	0
Coventry	0
Dudley	0
Sandwell	66
Solihull	0
Walsall	0
Wolverhampton	0

Source:
P2 new build from local authorities

Local Government

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what adopted local plans and unitary development plans are in force for each local planning authority, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* county; and what the month of adoption was in each case. [152746]

Yvette Cooper: Adopted local plans and UDPs are in force for all local planning authorities. Those plans which were adopted before September 2004 are "saved" until September 2007. Those adopted after September

2004 are "saved" for three years after adoption. Where local authorities have adopted development plan documents these will replace the local plans/UDPs in whole or in part. A table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the adoption dates of local plans and UDPs.

Mayor of London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 11 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 898W, on the Mayor of London, what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse, including the costs incurred by the Mayor, which will be met by the Standards Board. [156376]

John Healey: The Standards Board's own costs in respect of the case against the London Mayor amount to £64,000. The costs payable by the board to the Mayor in connection with the case are estimated to be £120,000. The cost to the Adjudication Panel in respect of the case is £14,000.

Ordnance Survey: Government Departments

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies have purchased licences to use the Ordnance Survey Pictometry product. [156580]

Mr. Iain Wright: Pictometry® is not an Ordnance Survey product.

BLOM Aerofilms Ltd., a private sector company, has the rights to market a Pictometry product in the United Kingdom. The product combines BLOM Aerofilms's oblique aerial imagery with viewing software patented by an American company, Pictometry International Corp.

Ordnance Survey has a non-exclusive commercial agreement with BLOM Aerofilms to act as an authorised reseller of Pictometry of Great Britain. Information on sales of licences to use Pictometry within the United Kingdom is commercially sensitive to BLOM Aerofilms Ltd., given that there are other commercial providers of potentially competing products.

Ordnance Survey: Map Watch Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose is of the Ordnance Survey's Map Watch initiative. [155679]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Ordnance Survey 'Map Watch' initiative is an internal departmental initiative, started in 2000, to encourage Ordnance Survey staff to identify potentially unlicensed extracts of Ordnance Survey mapping contained within third party publications, so that infringements of Crown copyright may be investigated and resolved.

Planning Permission: Purfleet

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what period and with whom she will consult consequent on the decision of the High Court in respect of her decision to reject the planning application submitted by George Wimpey for 571 residential units on former industrial land at Cory's Wharf, Purfleet; and if she will make a statement. [156391]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State will shortly write to George Wimpey, Thurrock borough council, Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation, and other interested persons who appeared at the public inquiry, to invite them to submit written representations in respect of any material changes in planning circumstances that may have occurred since the close of the inquiry. Parties will be asked to submit any representations no later than three weeks from the date of the Secretary of State's letter. Alternatively, parties may ask for the inquiry to be re-opened. In deciding whether the inquiry should be re-opened, the Secretary of State will consider all views that may be expressed to her on this matter.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors and whose advice she took into account in deciding to call in the planning application made by George Wimpey for 571 residential units at the former industrial land at Cory's Wharf, Purfleet; and if she will make a statement. [156392]

Mr. Dhanda: In line with the then current policy on recovering planning appeals, set out in the statement to the House of Commons on 25 July 2000 by my right hon. Friend the Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr. Raynsford), the appeal was automatically recovered by the Secretary of State for her own determination in December 2004, rather than being decided by one of her Planning Inspectors, because it raised issues relating to residential development of more than 5 hectares or 150 or more houses.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons she rejected the inspector's findings made in respect of the planning application by George Wimpey for 571 residential units at the former industrial land at Cory's Wharf, Purfleet and issued an alternative determination; and if she will make a statement. [156393]

Mr. Dhanda: The reasons for the Secretary of State's decision are set out in the decision letter of 2 October 2006, which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planning-callins/pdf/195158

Copies of the decision letter have been placed in the Library of both houses. Since this decision has now been quashed and falls to be redetermined by the Secretary of State, it would not be appropriate to comment further on the reasons for the decision.

Planning Permission: Vauxhall Tower

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the ruling of the Information Tribunal regarding the consideration of the planning application by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Vauxhall Tower in South London. [155683]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government accepted the Information Tribunal Judgment in the particular case of the Vauxhall Tower planning application. Copies of the submissions by officials are available on the DCLG website. However, we consider each request for information on the particular facts of each case, in accordance with the provisions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Urban Areas: Trees

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the Trees in Towns II report commissioned by her Department; [156513]

(2) what research her Department and its predecessor commissioned into trees in urban areas over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [156581]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have commissioned one research project on trees in urban areas over the last five years, namely Trees in Towns II.

Copies of the Trees in Towns II final report will be placed in the Library when it is published towards the end of November 2007.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the increase in average earnings in *(a)* the whole labour market, *(b)* the private sector and *(c)* the public sector has been since 1997. [155940]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what increase in average earnings in (a) the whole labour market, (b) the private sector and (c) the public sector has been since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (155940)

Growth in earnings is estimated from the Average Earnings Index (AEI). The AEI figures for Great Britain are collected and published monthly. The AEI does not cover the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

The monthly changes to the index and growth are published on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdtablesl.asp?vlnk=emp. Calendar year comparisons are available on request.

Each month 8900 companies are surveyed for the AEI, covering 12.8 million employees, which is just under half of all GB employees.

I attach a table showing the average earnings index seasonally adjusted from 1997 until 2006 for the whole economy, public and private sectors.

Average Earnings Index: all employee jobs, main industrial sectors, seasonally adjusted, Great Britain

Including bonuses, excluding arrears

	Whole economy (divisions 01-93)		*Public sector*		*Private sector*	
2000=100	*Index*	*Annual growth (Percentage)*	*Index*	*Annual growth (Percentage)*	*Index*	*Annual growth (Percentage)*
	LNMQ	LNMU	LNNJ	LNKW	LNKY	LNKZ
1997	86.8	—	89.6	—	86.2	—
1998	91.3	5.1	92.5	3.3	91.0	5.6
1999	95.7	4.8	96.4	4.2	95.5	5.0
2000	100.0	4.5	100.0	3.8	100.0	4.7
2001	104.5	4.5	105.0	5.0	104.3	4.3
2002	108.2	3.6	109.3	4.1	107.9	3.5
2003	111.9	3.5	114.8	5.0	111.3	3.1
2004	116.8	4.3	119.8	4.4	116.0	4.2
2005	121.5	4.1	125.4	4.7	120.6	4.0
2006	126.5	4.1	130.0	3.6	125.7	4.2
Total Growth 1997 to 2006	—	45.7	—	45.1	—	45.9

Note:
All figures based upon the calendar year.
Source:
Annual Earnings Index, Office for National Statistics.

Child Tax Credit

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of child tax credits receive child support agency payments or child maintenance payments which are not taken into account in assessing the recipient's income. [155725]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Customs Officers: Manpower

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers were employed

by HM Revenue and Customs in each English region in each of the last five years. [155847]

Angela Eagle: In April 2005, HM Customs and Excise was merged with the Inland Revenue to form HM Revenue and Customs. Numbers of staff in HM Customs and Excise are not available from that date. Previous numbers of HM Customs and Excise staff within the Government office regions, as well as those of the combined Department, are published annually in 'Civil Service Statistics' and at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/index.asp.

The following table shows the number of staff in the Detection directorate, which is mainly engaged in anti-smuggling work, in each of the Government office regions. The substantial numbers of staff in other directorates engaged partly or wholly on work in the customs area are not identifiable from HMRC records.

GOR	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East	139.1	431.8	464.4	506.1	577.84
East Midlands	43.3	38.8	45.1	43.2	48.98
North East	78.8	71.7	79.4	78.4	91.8
North West	290	305.9	339.7	336.8	329.79
South East[1]	2,491.7	2,187.5	2,398.4	2,575.7	2,611.01
South West	154.5	150	135.3	132.2	120.37
West Midlands	84.4	91.8	88.4	139.8	158.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	144.6	182.6	179.2	194.3	230.8
Total	3,426.4	3,460.1	3,729.9	4,006.5	4,169.49

[1] Includes London

Customs Officers: South West Region

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many Customs officers were permanently attached to *(a)* seaports, *(b)* airfields in (i) Cornwall, (ii) Devon, (iii) Dorset, (iv) Isle of Wight and (v) Hampshire in (A) 2001 and (B) 2007; and if he will make a statement; [156682]

(2) what plans he has to increase the permanent presence of customs officers at *(a)* seaports and *(b)* airfields in (i) Cornwall, (ii) Devon, (iii) Dorset, (iv) Isle of Wight and (v) Hampshire, with particular reference to land-based officers doing uncanalised work; and if he will make a statement. [156694]

Angela Eagle: HMRC do not release the numbers of front line Customs staff that they deploy at a local level as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Debts

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of personal debt is *(a)* secured and *(b)* unsecured; and if he will make a statement; [156261]

(2) what the level of *(a)* total, *(b)* secured and *(c)* unsecured personal debt in the UK is as a percentage of gross disposable income; and if he will make a statement; [156262]

(3) what the level of *(a)* total, *(b)* secured, *(c)* average secured, *(d)* unsecured and *(e)* average unsecured personal debt is in (i) the UK and (ii) each region; and if he will make a statement. [156263]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions on what proportion of personal debt is secured and unsecured, what these are as percentages of gross disposable income and what the average levels of these are in the UK and in each region of the UK. (156261, 156262, 156263)

The information requested is given in the tables below. Statistics on personal debt by region of the UK are not available.

Table 1: Unsecured and secured debt as a proportion of personal debt

	Personal debt/total loans (£ million)	*Unsecured/ short-term loans (£ million)*	*Secured/long-term loans (£ million)*	*Unsecured/ short-term loans as percentage of total loans*	*Secured/long-term loans as percentage of total loans*
1995	478,629	77,474	401,155	16	84
1996	499,358	80,084	419,274	16	84
1997	531,934	88,412	443,522	17	83
1998	567,788	97,404	470,384	17	83
1999	617,653	109,208	508,445	18	82
2000	675,433	124,323	551,110	18	82
2001	749,249	140,891	608,358	19	81
2002	848,038	157,748	690,290	19	81
2003	958,210	163,506	794,704	17	83
2004	1,083,349	183,390	899,959	17	83

Table 1: Unsecured and secured debt as a proportion of personal debt

	Personal debt/total loans (£ million)	Unsecured/ short-term loans (£ million)	Secured/long-term loans (£ million)	Unsecured/ short-term loans as percentage of total loans	Secured/long-term loans as percentage of total loans
2005	1,158,336	194,129	964,207	17	83
2006	1,278,332	205,012	1,073,320	16	84

Source:
Table A64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts http://www. statistics. gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Table 2: Total personal debt, unsecured debt and secured debt as a proportion of household gross disposable income

	Household gross disposable income (£ million)	Personal debt as percentage of gross disposable income	Unsecured debt as percentage of gross disposable income	Secured debt as percentage of gross disposable income
1995	497,593	96	16	81
1996	526,366	95	15	80
1997	559,941	95	16	79
1998	582,790	97	17	81
1999	608,988	101	18	83
2000	643,415	105	19	86
2001	686,312	109	21	89
2002	709,048	120	22	97
2003	740,389	129	24	107
2004	765,683	141	24	118
2005	807,989	143	24	119
2006	836,911	153	24	128

Notes:
1. Differences due to rounding.
2. Personal debt numbers consistent with those in Table 1 above.

Source:
Tables A3 8 and A64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Table 3: Total personal debt, unsecured debt and secured debt per head of population

	Total UK population (Thousand)	Average personal debt (£)	Average unsecured debt (£)	Average secured debt (£)
1995	58,025	8,249	1,335	6,913
1996	58,164	8,585	1,377	7,208
1997	58,314	9,122	1,516	7,606
1998	58,475	9,710	1,666	8,044
1999	58,684	10,525	1,861	8,664
2000	58,886	11,470	2,111	9,359
2001	59,113	12,675	2,383	10,291
2002	59,322	14,296	2,659	11,636
2003	59,554	16,090	2,746	13,344
2004	59,834	18,106	3,065	15,041
2005	60,218	19,236	3,224	16,012
2006	60,533	21,118	3,387	17,731

Note:
Personal debt numbers consistent with those in Table 1 above.

Source:
Table A64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts. http:// www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904 Home population Table 1.5 The Blue Book 2007. http://www. statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ Product.asp?vlnk=1143

Debts: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of personal debt incurred by people living in Cornwall was in each year since 1979. [156666]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury does not hold data concerning the information requested.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155880]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury group's spending on consultancy since 2001-02 is set out in table 7.4 on page 91 of the 2006-07 annual report and accounts, available from http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/annual_report07.cfm. The further details requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what visits he has made involving a mix of political and official engagements where Government Car Service vehicles were used in 2007; and whether the Government was reimbursed a proportion of the cost in each case. [142600]

Angela Eagle: All travel is undertaken in accordance with Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the House Library.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156678]

Angela Eagle: In the financial year 2006-07, the Treasury had one Executive agency, the Debt Management Office and two NDPBs, the Public Services Productivity Panel, and the Statistics Commission. The abolition of the PSPP was announced in the 2006 pre-Budget report. The Statistics Commission will be replaced by a new Statistics Board, independent of the Treasury, under the Statistics Bill.

The Office of Government Commerce, part of the HM Treasury Group, has one trading fund, OGCbuying.solutions.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155897]

Angela Eagle: The only form of advertising spending planned by the Treasury for 2007-08 is recruitment advertising, in print and electronic media. The Treasury's budget for recruitment costs (including other costs besides recruitment advertising) for 2007-08 is £116,000. Line by line budgets for 2008-09 have not yet been set.

Disabled

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were registered as disabled in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997; and how many of those registered were in employment in each case. [156714]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many people were registered as disabled and how many of those registered were in employment in each year since 1997. (156714)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. ONS does not have data on registered disabled people but the above surveys do collect information on the disability status of respondents, based on the respondents' self-assessment.

The table attached, shows the number of disabled people and of those the number who were in employment in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK, for the 12 month period ending in February for 1999 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 month period ending in March for 2003 to 2006, from the APS. The table also shows employment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Annual estimates are not available prior to 1999.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the annual Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Disabled[1] people of working age[2] in employment in the Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside, the North East region and the United Kingdom

Thousand

	Jarrow			South Tyneside		
	All disabled[1]	*In employment*		*All disabled[1]*	*In employment*	
12 months ending	*Level*	*Level*	*Rate[3] (%)*	*Level*	*Level*	*Rate[3] (%)*
February 1999	11	3	27	19	3	18
February 2000	13	4	34	20	7	34
February 2001	11	5	41	20	7	34
February 2002	11	4	40	19	7	36
February 2003	11	5	44	21	8	37
February 2004	12	5	38	22	8	37
March 2005	12	5	39	22	9	41
March 2006	11	4	40	21	8	36
Marsh 2007	10	4	35	21	8	36

Thousand

	North East			United Kingdom		
	All disabled[1]	*In employment*		*All disabled[1]*	*In employment*	
12 months ending	*Level*	*Level*	*Rate[3] (%)*	*Level*	*Level*	*Rate[3] (%)*
February 1999	356	123	35	6,219	2,724	44
February 2000	357	124	35	6,471	2,952	46
February 2001	334	118	35	6,718	3,110	46
February 2002	348	125	36	6,747	3,157	47
February 2003	351	132	38	6,817	3,234	47
February 2004	361	143	39	6,879	3,284	48
March 2005	358	147	41	6,853	3,358	49
March 2006	353	147	42	6,838	3,374	49
Marsh 2007	359	161	45	6,809	3,352	49

[1] Includes DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) and working-limiting disabled.
[2] Includes men aged 16 to 64 and women age 16 to 59.
[3] Disabled people in employment of working-age as a percentage of all disabled people.

Note:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Domicile: Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many investigations his Department instigated into claimants of non-domicile tax status in the last 12 months for which information is available; and if he will make statement; [153860]

(2) how many investigations instigated by his Department into claimants of non-domicile tax status resulted in claimants being *(a)* fined and *(b)* imprisoned for wrongfully claiming non-domicile status in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [153861]

(3) how many people *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully applied for non-domicile tax status in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [153864]

(4) how many investigations were undertaken into the income and assets held overseas by non-domiciled UK taxpayers in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [153936]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people claiming non-domicile tax status in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [153937]

Jane Kennedy: Information on investigations relating to and applications for non-domicile status are not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Claims for non-domicile status are not all processed separately from the overall tax assessment and are, therefore, not recorded separately. However, HMRC does know the number of taxpayers who have indicated non-domicile status through self-assessment. The following table shows the number of taxpayers who have done so through the SA return over the past 10 years. These figures cannot be broken down by month.

Tax year	*Number of non-domicile claims*
1996-97	68,000
1997-98	83,000
1998-99	91,000
1999-2000	98,000
2000-01	106,000
2001-02	111,000
2002-03	110,000
2003-04	111,000
2004-05	115,000
2005-06	114,000

Drug Seizures

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account is taken of past quantities of heroin and cocaine seized by HM Revenue and Customs in setting targets for future seizures; for what reason equivalent seizure targets are not set for *(a)* ecstasy and *(b)* cannabis; and if he will make a statement [156607]

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what quantities of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy and *(d)* cannabis were seized as a result of HM Revenue and Customs operations in each of the last four years; [156024]

(2) what the seizure quantity targets were for *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy and *(d)* cannabis in each of the last four years. [156025]

Angela Eagle: Seizure quantity targets for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 for the Concerted Inter Agency Drugs Action group (CIDA) are as follows:

Financial year	*Heroin*	*Kilograms Cocaine*
2005-06[1]	5,300	13,200
2004-05	4,600	12,600
2003-04	4,000	12,000

[1] The targets set for each of the years 2005-06, 2004-05, 2003 -04 were joint targets for the agencies that formed the Concerted Inter-agency Drugs Action group (CIDA). The individual agencies that formed CIDA, including HMRC did not have their own specific targets.

No seizure targets were set for ecstasy or cannabis.

HM Revenue & Customs was one of the contributing agencies to CIDA's overall seizure target quantities. HMRC seized the following quantities of drugs in each of the last four years.

Financial year	*Heroin*	*Cocaine*	*Ecstasy*	*Kilograms Cannabis*
2006-07[1]	527	2,368	1,212	62,966
2005-06	1,057	5,798	468	41,611
2004-05	1,613	8,606	740	57,504
2003-04	1,626	[2]20,727	1,245	57,617

[1] When the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) became operational on 1 April 2006, primacy for, and the resources associated with the investigation of Class A drugs cases transferred to SOCA.

[2] The large quantity of cocaine seized in this year is due to the culmination of several long running operations.

HMRC's seizure target for 2006-07 was 700kgs for heroin and 2,600kgs for cocaine. In setting the targets for 2007-08 for heroin and cocaine, HM Revenue & Customs used their 2005-06 results and stripped out those seizures that were generated by the area of the Department that transferred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

Drug Seizures: South West Region

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what quantity of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy, *(d)* cannabis and *(e)* firearms has been seized by Customs officers in (i) seaports and (ii) airfields in (A) Cornwall, (B) Devon, (C) Dorset, (D) Isle of Wight and (E) Hampshire in (1) 2001, (2) 2002 and (3) in the last year for which records are available; and if he will make a statement. [156693]

Angela Eagle: National information on seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2003 is contained in their annual reports.

Information of seizures by location cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Financial Services: Bermuda

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of whether the banking and financial sector of Bermuda is *(a)* sufficiently transparent and *(b)* regulated and subject to oversight that meets European and other international norms designed to combat financial and white collar crime; and if he will make a statement. [155823]

Kitty Ussher: In 1999 the United Kingdom and the Caribbean Overseas Territories and Bermuda jointly commissioned an in-depth independent review of financial regulation in those territories. This review, carried out by KPMG and published on 27 October 2000, assessed the extent to which these Overseas Territories comply with international standards and good practice in the way they regulate their financial services sectors.

Bermuda is a member of the Caribbean Financial Action Taskforce and of the Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors, which are both observers bodies to the Financial Action Taskforce. Bermuda is also a member of the Egmont Group, the organisation for sharing information between Financial Intelligence Units. The Bermuda Monetary Authority is a member of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, which requires members to enter into a memorandum of understanding to mutually share information.

The International Monetary Fund conducted a review of Bermuda's financial sector regulation and supervision in early 2003 which is publicly available at www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr0598.pdf and www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr0599.pdf. This describes the financial, regulatory, and supervisory framework as well developed in banking, the key areas of securities regulation, and Anti-Money Laundering/ Counter Financing of Terrorism. The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the International Monetary Fund are currently undertaking a further assessment of regulation and supervision in Bermuda.

Financial Services: Pay

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of City bonuses on *(a)* London's housing market and *(b)* increases in housing prices in London in the last five years. [155607]

Jane Kennedy: HM Treasury has made no explicit assessment of the impact of City bonuses on London's housing market. Prospects for the housing market are examined as part of the usual Budget and pre-Budget report forecasting process.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake an evaluation of the adequacy of the tax rate on City bonuses. [155608]

Jane Kennedy: The Government keep all aspects of the tax system under review as part of the Budget cycle

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chairman of HM Customs and Revenue expects to reply to the letter of 19 July from the hon. Member for Aylesbury on the tax credit case of Mr. and Mrs. D. of Aylesbury (ref. JE875300A); and if he will make a statement. [156223]

Jane Kennedy: The Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs recently replied and apologises to the hon. Member for the delay in doing so.

HM Revenue and Customs: Travel

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the travelling and subsistence costs for mobile detection teams within the detection directorate of HM Revenue and Customs were in each of the last four years. [156026]

Angela Eagle: All frontline detection staff are deployed on flexible, mobile basis. Total travel and subsistence expenditure for the detection directorate is shown in the following table.

	£
2006-07	6,537,486
2005-06	6,378,546
2004-05	5,713,698
2003-04	5,931,342

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many estates in 2006-07 were not liable to inheritance tax as a consequence of the exemption available for *(a)* spouses and *(b)* civil partners. [155724]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimates are available for 2006-07, because the supporting information is not complete.

Insolvency: Football

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which professional football clubs have gone into administration leaving an unpaid debt to HM Revenue and Customs since 2000. [155598]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs are not in a position to provide such information about individual businesses, to do so would breach taxpayer confidentiality.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* tax and *(b)* national insurance revenue has been (i) lost and (ii) written off in relation to each professional football club which has entered into administration since 2000. [155599]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs are not in a position to provide information about individual businesses, as to do so would breach taxpayer confidentiality.

International Monetary Fund: Public Appointments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the suitability of *(a)* European and *(b)* non-European candidates for the post of Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and if he will make a statement; [155773]

(2) what discussions his Department has held on nominating a non-European candidate for the post of Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and if he will make a statement; [155774]

(3) what criteria his Department uses to assess candidates for nomination for the post of Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and if he will make a statement. [156317]

Kitty Ussher: The UK supports an open, transparent and meritocratic process for the selection of the Managing Director of the IMF, with the best candidate for the job selected regardless of nationality. The Chancellor has made this clear to other Finance Ministers both publicly and privately, including at the 9 July meeting of ECOFIN.

In selecting the successor to Rodrigo de Rato, the IMF's Executive Board put in place for the first time a selection process designed to deliver the UK's preferred objectives. This included a clear job description, a public timetable, a month-long nominations period, an interview stage—and an invitation for applications from all member countries. All of these steps were followed and by the close of nominations on 31 August two highly credible candidates had been put forward: Dominique Strauss-Kahn of France and Josef Tosovsky of the Czech Republic.

Before determining which of the two candidates to support, the UK compared their qualifications and experience to the job description set out by the Executive Board, available on the IMF website at www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07159.htm and concluded that Dominique Strauss-Kahn would be best able to succeed in pushing forward significant reform at the Fund. For this reason, the UK Executive Director supported his candidacy and the UK welcomed Mr. Strauss-Kahn's appointment on 28 September.

The UK will in future continue to support a similarly open and transparent process for all senior appointments at both the IMF and the World Bank.

Landfill Tax

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much landfill tax was paid by *(a)* waste disposal authorities and *(b)* other local authorities in each of the last 10 years. [156502]

Angela Eagle: It is not possible using landfill tax receipts data to determine how much revenue is received from local authorities. This is because registered landfill site operators pay the tax to HM Revenue and Customs and pass on the cost to their customers through the disposal charges they set. The origin of the landfilled waste is not recorded on the tax return.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much landfill tax was hypothecated to local authorities via the Revenue Support Grant Settlements in each of the last four financial years. [156503]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 936W.

National Income: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross value added was for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in each year since 2004. [156667]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning Gross Value Added (GVA) for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in each year since 2004. I am replying in her absence. (156667)

Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) data are produced using the official statistical geographies known as NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics). GVA data exist for the NUTS2 region of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly for the time period 1995-2004. These data were provided in the PQ response Official Report of 16 July 2007, Volume 463, Col 62, which requested Gross Value Added in Cornwall in each year since 1979.

ONS plan to publish regional GVA data up to and including 2006 for NUTS1 regions and 2005 for NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions in December 2007.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of people in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* the United Kingdom who have been informed that their National Insurance contributions do not meet the required level to qualify for the basic state pension in each of the last 10 tax years have made voluntary Class 3 National Insurance contributions up to the level required to qualify for the basic state pension; [156499]

(2) what percentage of people in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* the United Kingdom who hold National Insurance numbers have made National Insurance contributions during each of the last 10 tax years. [156501]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) maintains National Insurance records but does not hold the precise data requested by the hon. Member. In particular data are not held by county of residence.

Each year HMRC tells certain customers where their annual National Insurance contributions do not meet the qualifying level for basic state pension purposes for

a tax year and how to pay the amount of voluntary contributions needed to make good the shortfall.

The following table gives detail for each year on a national basis.

	1996-97 to 2001-02 year breakdown not available	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Number of deficiency notices issued[1]	10,021,682	3,785,747	3,664,485	4,719,208
Number of receipts by end of March 2007 i.e. voluntary contributions made.	329,046	129,411	105,774	60,031

[1] The tax years shown are the years in which the shortfall occurred as opposed to the year in which the notice was issued.

The percentage of people with National Insurance numbers who make a contribution in any year is not available.

Northern Rock

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the guarantee announced for deposits in Northern Rock covers unlimited new deposits into existing accounts; and for how long it is expected to continue. [155740]

Mr. Darling: On 17 September I announced that, should it be necessary, the Government, with the Bank of England, would put in place arrangements that would guarantee all the existing deposits in Northern Rock Plc. These arrangements would continue during the current instability in the financial markets.

The Government have today announced that these arrangements will be extended to cover all new retail deposits in Northern Rock Plc. The arrangements will cover all retail deposits taken since 19 September. Northern Rock Plc will pay an appropriate fee for the extension of the arrangements, which is designed to ensure that the company does not receive a commercial advantage.

Office for National Statistics: Directories

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest version of the National Statistics Postcode Directory. [156003]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting that a copy of the latest version of the National Statistics Postcode Directory be placed in the House of Commons Library (156003).

The quarterly Directory is a database file, available in a number of formats, which is used primarily for data processing. The Directory has not been developed for searches of individual postcodes and so does not have a user interface.

A free postcode searching facility is available through the GIGateway website: http://www.gigateway.org.uk/areasearch/default.html which contains all of the data available on the latest August '07 version of the Directory. This will provide you with direct access to the information held on the Directory.

The Parliamentary Constituencies held on the Directory are the current constituencies.

If you require any further information please contact Alistair Calder (alistair.calder@ons.gsi.gov.uk or 01329 813562).

Personal Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* annual incomes and *(b)* annual gross disposable household incomes were in (i) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, (ii) the South West, (iii) England and (iv) the UK in 2006. [156664]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning annual incomes and gross disposable household income (GDHI) in Cornwall, the South West, England and the United Kingdom in 2006. (156664)

Estimates of income are available back to 1995 and the latest year available is 2005. These data were provided in the PQ response Official Report of 5 June 2007, Volume 461, Col 474. ONS plan to publish regional GDHI for 2006 in April 2008.

Smuggling: Boats

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many uncanalised yacht and pleasure craft are estimated to have entered the UK in each year since 2003; and how many interventions or challenges have been made on yacht and pleasure craft by HM Revenue and Customs or other UK authorities since 2003. [156028]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs have not made any estimate of the number of yacht and pleasure craft arrivals to the UK.

We do not record centrally the number of challenges made on such craft.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what border controls HM Revenue and Customs exercise on *(a)* uncanalised yachts and *(b)* pleasure craft traffic, (i) entering and (ii) leaving the UK; and how many seizures of articles subject to an import prohibition have been made by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2003, broken down by category of item; and if he will make a statement. [156377]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs challenge, board and search yachts and pleasure craft on an intelligence-led basis. We do not centrally record seizures from such craft separately from other modes of transport.

National seizure figures are available in the HM Revenue and Customs Annual Report.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* records and *(b)* estimates have been made of the number of uncanalised yacht and pleasure craft entering the UK each year since 2003; and how many challenges have been made in respect of such craft by HM Revenue and Customs or other UK authority since 2003. [156608]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs have not made any estimate of the number of yacht and pleasure craft arrivals to the UK. No record is kept of the number of such vessels entering the UK.

We do not record centrally the number of challenges made on such craft.

Tax Yields: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money was received into the public purse from people in Cornwall by *(a)* Pay As You Earn, *(b)* national insurance, *(c)* VAT, *(d)* corporation tax and *(e)* road tax in each year since 1979. [156665]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the amount of tax revenue raised in Cornwall per annum. (156665)

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional estimates of Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) which include data for taxes on incomes and wealth paid by households. Data are available from 1995-2005. Regional estimates for expenditure based taxes and duties, for example VAT, are not available. Taxes paid by corporations are also unavailable on a regional basis.

Table A contains estimates of household taxes paid by residents of Cornwall and the Isles of Stilly from 1995 to 2005.

Table A: Taxes generated per annum millions[1,2]

	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly[3]
1995	549
1996	518
1997	523
1998	608
1999	627
2000	673
2001	717
2002	729
2003	764
2004	841
2005	909

[1] These data are at current prices. They are not deflated to account for increases in prices over time. Regional data are not available on a constant price (deflated) basis.
[2] These estimates are taken from the most recent release of regional GDHI data, published in March 2007.
[3] Data are presented for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly combined. These data cannot be disaggregated into the two constituent areas.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assumptions his Department has made regarding the behavioural changes necessary in order for receipts from remote gaming duty to equal those anticipated in the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report; [156521]

(2) how much revenue he expects to receive from remote gaming duty in each of the next five years. [156522]

Angela Eagle: Receipts from Remote Gaming Duty were forecast on the basis that existing Remote Gaming providers are located in tax havens and would not choose to relocate in Great Britain under any rate of taxation. Even at 0 per cent. Remote Gaming Duty, we expected the presence of irrecoverable VAT alone to prevent these companies choosing to relocate in Great Britain.

Revenue estimates of the Budget changes to gambling taxation were published in the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Taxation: National Lottery

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Treasury has raised in duty from the sale of National Lottery tickets in each year since the Lottery was established; and if he will make a statement. [156264]

Angela Eagle: Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Statistical Factsheet, available at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=facbetting

Taxation: Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the tax changes announced in the 2007 budget due to be implemented in 2008 on a woman pensioner aged between 60 and 65; and if he will make a statement. [156453]

Kitty Ussher: Tax changes announced in Budget 2007 were part of a package of reforms to support work, families and pensioners. The exact impact of the reforms on individuals including women pensioners aged between 60 and 64 will depend both on their own incomes, and also the circumstances of the household in which they live, for example the income and age of any partner, and family eligibility for tax credits and benefits.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 18 to 24-year-olds were not in full-time education, employment or training in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the population of 18 to 24-year-olds this represented in each case. [155992]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about young people not in employment, full-time education or training. I am replying in her absence. (155992)

Tables 1 and 2 attached, show the numbers of 18 to 24 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in Great Britain, parliamentary constituencies and local authorities, for the 12 months ending in March 2007 from the Annual Population Survey. The tables also show these numbers as percentages of the 18 to 24 year old populations in the areas.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

As the information is extensive, copies of these tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Valuation Office Agency: ICT

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what purpose the Valuation Office Agency joined PISCES; on what date; and at what cost. [156598]

Jane Kennedy: In January 2006 the VGA joined PISCES (Property Information System Common Exchange Standards) to enable it to contribute to the development of common standards for the holding—and where authorised—transfer of information relating to commercial properties. Executive membership costs £10,000 plus VAT per year.

VAT: Helmets

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons VAT is charged on child cycling helmets. [155636]

Jane Kennedy: VAT is not chargeable on any pedal cycle helmet which satisfies the requirements of the Personal Protective Equipment Directive (Directive 89/686/EEC).

Welfare Tax Credits

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice is given to claimants when there is a significant delay in amending a claimant's award notice following a change in their circumstances to enable them to calculate their tax credit entitlement when payments continue. [155749]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credits award notices and accompanying guidance notes, together with the guidance notes that accompany claim forms, all explain that changes in income can affect entitlement and encourage claimants to tell HM Revenue and Customs as soon as their income changes. Where a customer has not received a new award notice following a change in their circumstances, they can ring the Tax Credits Helpline and ask for a recalculation of their award using the new information.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid through the tax credit system to clients as compensation in lieu of any bank charges incurred on their personal accounts while involved with the tax credit system in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [156294]

Jane Kennedy: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet, "Complaints and Putting Things Right", which is available at www.hmrc.gov.uk

HMRC does not separately record the value of payments made to reimburse customers' bank charges.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Mike Wood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what process is followed by HM Revenue and Customs when dealing with appeals against the decisions they make in calculating child and working tax credit entitlement. [155973]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' guidance for dealing with appeals in relation to tax credits decisions can be found in the Tax Credits Manual which is available on their website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/appeals/ntc0040000.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid to recipients of tax credits in Bournemouth in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [155775]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency and county, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for 2005-06, is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Supplements on Payments in 2005-06. Geographical Analysis", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2006-07 tax credit awards are due to be published in May 2008 when family circumstances and incomes have been finalised.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 10 October 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: United Nations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department has on reports that six UN Development Programme staff in Burma have been involved in corruption. [155590]

Mr. Malik: UN Development Programme (UNDP) has recently taken disciplinary action against four UNDP staff in Burma for unsatisfactory performance or for inappropriate use of project resources, totalling about £125.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156649]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: HM Treasury issue accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies (under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000) and to trading funds (under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973).

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Department for International Development did not issue any accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to any of the Department's sponsored bodies.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155873]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested is available on the DFID website http://www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractslet.asp for the calendar years 2005, 2006 and up to and including September 2007. Providing the same level of information for 2004 would incur disproportionate cost. The information on our website does not include low value contracts issued by DFID's overseas offices and would also incur disproportionate cost to compile.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will break down in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms columns 1 to 8 of the subhead detail tables for his Department contained in the (i) main estimate, (ii) winter supplementary estimate and (iii) spring supplementary estimate for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08. [155998]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information in the Part II: Subhead detail table of our Supply Estimates is not broken down by near-cash/non-cash. There are no other published documents that provide a near-cash/non-cash breakdown of this data, though the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) publication (copies of which are in the House Library) provides a useful near-cash/non-cash DEL split (see Tables 1.6, 1.7 and 2.1 of PESA 2007 for data for years 2001-02 to 2007-08).

Data taken from Supply Estimates is not necessarily readily compatible with a near-cash/non-cash split, which is used only within the Departmental Expenditure Limit budgetary controls applied by HM Treasury. Providing a near-cash/non-cash split against the columns in the Part II: Subhead detail table in our Estimate would only be possible at disproportionate cost. The ability of Departments to provide such a split will depend partly on the extent of reconciliations between voted provision and budgetary limits.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many applications he received for the Governance and Transparency Fund; and whether he plans to publish a list of *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful applications. [156068]

Mr. Malik: The deadline for proposals to the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) was midnight on 28 September 2007. We received 265 proposals by this deadline.

We aim to make final funding decisions in December 2007. In accordance with normal practice for our central funding schemes, we will post a full list of successful proposals on the DFID website once all applicants have been informed of the decisions. The question of whether or not to publish the names of unsuccessful applicants, bearing in mind the need to balance respect for confidentiality with a desire to be as open as possible, raises a number of issues; we are currently considering these.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's *(a)* administrative expenditure, *(b)* other current expenditure, *(c)* grant expenditure, *(d)* operating appropriations in aid (A in A), *(e)* capital and *(f)* non-operating A in A outturn, broken down in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms, was for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [155997]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Part II: Subhead detail table in Main Estimates for each year provide outturn data for one prior year, but these are only broken down to net total resources for each section in the table.

There are no other published documents that provide a near-cash/non-cash breakdown of these data, though the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) publication (copies of which are in the House Library) provides a useful near-cash/non-cash DEL split (see Tables 1.6, 1.7 and 2.1 of PESA 2007 for data for years 2001-02 to 2007-08). However, we have been able to provide a near-cash/non-cash split against the columns in the Part II: Subhead detail table in our Estimate by identifying non-cash items (cost of capital charges, depreciation, new/adjusted provisions, notional audit fees and other notional charges, losses on disposal of fixed assets) shown in the notes to our Resource Accounts. All other items are near cash. The Resource Accounts do not split non-cash items between 'Other current expenditure' and 'Grants', therefore all non-cash programme items have been allocated to 'Other Current Expenditure' in the following table.

Data taken from Supply Estimates or resource accounts are not necessarily readily compatible with a near-cash/non-cash split, which is used only within the Departmental Expenditure Limit budgetary controls applied by HM Treasury.

£000

		Administrative expenditure	*Other current expenditure*	*Grant expenditure*	*Operating A in A*	*Capital*	*Non-operating A in A*
2001-02	Near cash	71,760	12,275	2,212,501	8,807	70,587	51,095
	Non cash	13,936	178,313	—	—	—	—
2002-03	Near cash	38,611	44,919	2,548,925	12,141	56,120	39,093
	Non cash	59,534	194,713	—	—	—	—
2003-04	Near cash	169,030	38,707	2,589,812	5,499	68,120	40,777
	Non cash	31,525	50,344	—	—	—	—
2004-05	Near cash	190,624	17,905	2,933,229	6,546	820,926	32,972
	Non cash	26,964	130,216	—	—	—	—
2005-06	Near cash	201,720	483,685	3,066,508	18,690	52,424	34,145
	Non cash	25,132	131,828	—	—	—	—
2006-07	Near cash	197,559	508,616	3,496,403	10,829	29,333	35,320
	Non cash	50,892	460,968	—	—	—	—

Overseas Aid: Water

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assistance his Department is providing to aid the development of water operator partnerships; [156342]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential value of water operator partnerships. [156343]

Mr. Thomas: DFID officials have been in discussion with NGOs such as Oxfam, WDM, WaterAid and others for over a year about more effective ways to support public utilities. We recognise that promoting partnerships is an opportunity to help water utilities identify what works, build their capacity and support them to deliver better services to poor people.

In April of this year, DFID funded regional workshops in Asia and Africa. Working with utility managers, these explored the possibilities of establishing regional partnerships—and examined the support they might need. We have also agreed to fund work to share the lessons from public water utilities about what has worked best in individual countries and we will look to see what can be learnt from partnerships between utilities.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of retail price competition through the application of regulation in broadband on the range and price of services available to consumers; and what assessment he has made of the merits of applying similar openness of access to the market for premium content and pay TV. [155936]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Minister. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Companies: Takeovers

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review the takeover code in the light of the instability at Northern Rock. [156044]

Mr. Timms: The takeover code is issued and administered by the takeover panel, which operates independently from Government. Changes to the code, if considered necessary, would be made by the panel. The code ensures that shareholders' interests are protected during the course of a takeover bid.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many

and what proportion of staff in his Department and its predecessor took early retirement in the last five years, broken down by grade; and at what cost. [148742]

Mr. Thomas: A total of 473 staff in the former Department of Trade and Industry took early retirement at age over 50 from April 2002 to March 2007 at a total cost of £15.34 million, broken down as follows:

	Number of early retirements	*Cost of lump sums (£)*	*Proportion of depart staff including UKTI (percentage)*
2002-03	19	704,188.73	0.4
2003-04	12	566,127.20	0.3
2004-05	271	6,962,183.32	6
2005-06	113	4,934,923.32	3
2006-07	58	2,172,697.92	2
Total	473	15,340,120.49	

A breakdown of the grade for this number of staff could only be established at a disproportionate cost.

Public Holidays

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures have been taken to ensure that *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees are aware of the changes in statutory holiday entitlements and what the statutory holiday entitlements are, and during what dates, during the transitional period of their introduction. [155806]

Mr. McFadden: The Government undertook two full consultations on the proposals to increase the holiday entitlement, holding a number of regional meetings and working closely with unions and employer organisations. Specific efforts were made to engage small businesses and employers in key sectors likely to be particularly affected. The ability to receive email updates on the proposals was offered and over eight thousand people requested updates on progress. The proposals also attracted considerable media coverage on a number of occasions.

Detailed guidance for employers and workers, including an interactive calculator for holiday entitlements, has been placed on the Business Link and Direct.gov websites respectively, with supporting material on BERR's own website.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153065]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent £21,102 on flowers in 2006-07 (this is the last 12 months for which audited expenditure figures are available).

WALES

Lone Parents

8. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents with children aged between five and 16 years in Wales he expects to move into work as a result of the Government's proposed changes to the benefit regime. [156173]

Mr. Hain: The UK Government's goal is to increase the number of working lone parents in the UK by 300,000.

Rail Services

9. **Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister and the Secretary of State for Transport on railway services in Wales. [156174]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend and I regularly meet with ministerial colleagues both in Whitehall and the Assembly Government to discuss issues affecting Wales, including rail services.

Clean Coal

10. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the future for clean coal in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [156175]

Mr. Hain: Clean coal is central to our goal of developing a diverse energy supply in Wales, which dramatically reduces our carbon emissions.

Animal Health Measures

11. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the cross-border variations in emergency animal health measures. [156176]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for DEFRA on a range of issues, including animal health measures.

The recent crises in animal health and our Government's reaction prove the seriousness with which we take these issues, and that the procedures in place to deal with such sudden events are working well.

Heroin

12. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last discussed the average street price of heroin in Wales with the Home Secretary. [156177]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on matters affecting Wales including such matters as drug-related crime.

RAF St. Athan

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress has been made on infrastructure projects in support of the Defence Training Review project at RAF St. Athan; and if he will make a statement. [156148]

Mr. Hain: Negotiations between the Ministry of Defence, the Welsh Assembly Government and Metrix are continuing on delivering Package 1 quickly, and in addressing the remaining affordability issues to deliver Package 2.

On 3 October the Welsh Assembly Government announced that public exhibitions are under way on obtaining the public's views on improving access to Cardiff airport, demonstrating their commitment to improving the road infrastructure to the airport and which will no doubt also benefit the DTR at St. Athan.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many assaults there were on school teachers in 2005-06 which led to exclusions, broken down by *(a)* by category of assault and *(b)* local education authority; and if he will make a statement. [154523]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of assaults on school teachers is not collected centrally.

The Department does collect information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions from schools due to physical assault against an adult. The latest information is shown in the following tables.

However, due to underlying changes in the data collection, information on the reasons for exclusion is only available for maintained secondary schools for 2005-06.

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
	England[3]	62,670	8,240	12,730	79,370	5,270	3,370	2,620
	North East[4]	2,650	370	590	3,560	230	130	110
841	Darlington	165	27	65	294	[5]—	9	6
840	Durham	644	62	109	864	45	14	15
390	Gateshead	68	3	13	113	22	5	0
805	Hartlepool	62	9	44	133	14	7	6
806	Middlesbrough	127	22	26	188	15	9	7
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	292	58	42	393	27	9	16
392	North Tyneside	176	21	44	229	19	14	13
929	Northumberland	453	53	74	468	26	15	16
807	Redcar and Cleveland	144	22	30	152	9	4	5
393	South Tyneside	164	21	55	232	19	19	13
808	Stockton-on-Tees	148	30	47	292	13	5	11
394	Sunderland	211	43	39	206	16	16	[5]—
	North West[3, 4]	8,480	1,240	1,780	11,730	700	490	380
889	Blackburn with Darwen	195	36	26	226	11	19	9
890	Blackpool	233	42	51	221	7	6	7
350	Bolton	410	77	87	630	22	30	23
351	Bury[4]	334	24	105	369	45	15	13
875	Cheshire	980	85	221	1,335	41	31	31
909	Cumbria	659	69	165	943	61	27	31
876	Halton	110	25	24	186	13	[5]—	11
340	Knowsley	116	23	26	169	11	12	9
888	Lancashire	1,357	158	213	1,688	106	78	59
341	Liverpool	301	44	50	269	31	28	4
352	Manchester	753	229	164	1,009	70	38	43
353	Oldham	264	48	66	435	10	37	12
354	Rochdale	287	29	43	289	51	17	13
355	Salford	261	52	39	400	16	17	12
343	Sefton	73	23	29	115	11	13	17
342	St. Helens	114	37	36	287	11	3	4
356	Stockport	425	55	77	650	35	28	12
357	Tameside	408	40	68	555	38	28	7
358	Trafford	200	27	55	302	12	18	11

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
877	Warrington	218	24	61	516	5	16	8
359	Wigan	324	48	101	563	28	9	17
344	Wirral	462	46	74	575	60	20	29
	Yorkshire and the Humber	7,430	1,140	1,450	10,280	550	460	330
370	Barnsley	207	22	29	250	15	11	9
380	Bradford	860	159	120	1,091	54	73	50
381	Calderdale	356	45	61	381	25	31	13
371	Doncaster	386	50	78	708	21	18	20
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	543	77	123	750	24	19	26
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	389	123	60	716	27	40	12
382	Kirklees	558	90	134	862	39	26	11
383	Leeds	1,043	200	160	1,470	91	76	44
812	North East Lincolnshire	265	47	51	360	29	9	19
813	North Lincolnshire	282	31	30	309	24	12	8
815	North Yorkshire	494	86	132	952	48	27	34
372	Rotherham	434	35	152	576	24	25	14
373	Sheffield	841	86	173	862	77	40	26
384	Wakefield	607	55	97	776	34	42	33
816	York	162	30	45	214	13	10	9
	East Midlands[3]	5,290	750	970	6,500	520	250	200
831	Derby	179	37	45	248	41	20	10
830	Derbyshire	684	76	74	845	76	32	18
856	Leicester	502	70	108	560	41	15	20
855	Leicestershire	755	83	166	1,054	72	40	31
925	Lincolnshire	625	78	136	695	62	38	34
928	Northamptonshire	1,114	134	195	1,423	73	46	39
892	Nottingham	379	109	71	355	40	13	17
891	Nottinghamshire	1,034	159	167	1,299	107	47	35
857	Rutland	13	4	8	20	9	[5]—	0
	West Midlands[1]	7,060	890	1,230	8,080	650	410	290
330	Birmingham	1,733	214	213	1,216	176	99	68
331	Coventry	383	63	82	433	46	21	9
332	Dudley	482	41	114	626	56	31	38
884	Herefordshire	170	15	33	274	3	4	4
333	Sandwell	351	77	73	378	28	23	12
893	Shropshire	320	36	43	372	47	9	11
334	Staffordshire	282	29	69	301	13	23	14
860	Solihull	967	72	221	1,325	80	31	17
861	Stoke-on-Trent	362	56	57	409	25	52	17
894	Telford and Wrekin	348	50	55	512	21	4	17
335	Walsall	334	52	40	335	21	22	10
937	Warwickshire	528	45	109	806	51	49	24
336	Wolverhampton	296	56	34	358	35	17	23
885	Worcestershire	506	87	88	734	45	25	22
	East of England[3]	6,250	700	1,360	8,930	540	430	290
820	Bedfordshire	372	67	101	611	45	33	13
873	Cambridgeshire	477	36	110	559	63	30	24
881	Essex	2,022	211	388	2,807	135	116	77
919	Hertfordshire	929	109	293	1,326	95	97	62
821	Luton	249	48	36	303	14	16	10
926	Norfolk	649	65	92	1,194	67	48	51
874	Peterborough	377	21	84	308	28	25	14
882	Southend-on-Sea	126	19	55	227	8	6	10
935	Suffolk	822	111	170	1,216	74	31	16

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
883	Thurrock	230	16	30	379	13	31	12
	London[3, 4]	8,630	1,260	1,630	6,920	770	350	400
	Inner London[3, 4]	2,850	500	490	1,900	230	70	110
202	Camden[4]	190	41	50	175	9	9	7
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
204	Hackney	290	42	39	134	16	4	[5]
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	77	7	9	30	4	0	3
309	Haringey	288	55	32	198	8	0	21
206	Islington	151	32	28	109	27	5	3
207	Kensington and Chelsea	49	15	18	44	5	[5]	0
208	Lambeth	236	20	38	145	15	[5]	6
209	Lewisham	362	62	54	231	30	11	13
316	Newham	516	84	78	277	50	10	26
210	Southwark	166	28	57	113	14	[5]	6
211	Tower Hamlets	192	56	34	183	31	9	4
212	Wandsworth	186	24	25	144	10	[5]	6
213	Westminster	142	35	25	118	11	14	9
	Outer London[3]	5,790	760	1,140	5,020	540	280	300
301	Barking and Dagenham	113	31	21	162	[5]	3	15
302	Barnet	424	50	64	227	17	18	36
303	Bexley	404	41	71	373	18	16	16
304	Brent	518	81	63	314	64	13	5
305	Bromley	170	20	43	166	7	11	18
306	Croydon	248	44	63	171	21	5	19
307	Ealing	326	15	72	243	52	37	9
308	Enfield	442	72	121	374	35	16	41
203	Greenwich	537	50	140	577	50	32	30
310	Harrow	319	27	65	206	23	10	10
311	Havering	219	23	37	170	33	29	15
312	Hillingdon	192	34	34	258	27	22	13
313	Hounslow	258	33	50	256	29	6	11
314	Kingston upon Thames	115	10	24	136	5	4	[5]
315	Merton	236	49	33	191	12	5	4
317	Redbridge	332	25	71	258	30	10	12
318	Richmond upon Thames	131	25	45	223	18	6	11
319	Sutton	289	26	58	263	40	25	11
320	Waltham Forest	514	106	69	448	61	13	21
	South East[3]	10,630	1,170	2,330	14,220	840	610	350
867	Bracknell Forest	136	15	11	168	5	5	5
846	Brighton and Hove	316	41	73	579	25	18	19
825	Buckinghamshire	490	32	74	465	30	35	19
845	East Sussex	793	72	161	1,201	35	36	15
850	Hampshire	1,748	211	430	2,420	148	89	65
921	Isle of Wight	126	25	43	292	8	8	7
886	Kent	1,913	179	360	2,000	172	116	60
887	Medway	555	53	117	608	28	36	29
826	Milton Keynes	215	23	35	234	22	10	0
931	Oxfordshire	614	93	121	1,186	50	43	23
851	Portsmouth	451	30	74	406	17	22	[5]
870	Reading	83	14	56	134	7	3	0
871	Slough	89	16	17	36	12	3	8
852	Southampton	538	88	84	741	41	13	11
936	Surrey	1,248	101	334	1,682	144	100	45
869	West Berkshire	156	20	55	227	17	4	3
938	West Sussex	921	120	239	1,458	63	53	20
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	113	10	18	150	10	6	5

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
872	Wokingham	122	27	27	229	10	6	11
	South West[1]	6,240	710	1,400	9,160	480	240	270
800	Bath and North East Somerset	228	21	70	297	28	9	5
837	Bournemouth	147	25	21	196	3	12	0
801	Bristol, City of	627	110	91	741	43	18	20
908	Cornwall	435	42	105	609	44	23	23
878	Devon	1,022	109	244	1,768	84	27	32
835	Dorset	387	24	75	358	14	12	15
916	Gloucestershire	651	45	182	896	37	22	38
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	255	18	60	231	26	7	4
879	Plymouth	254	34	26	362	13	12	18
836	Poole	151	17	38	492	3	[3]	5
933	Somerset	734	104	185	1,464	48	19	42
803	South Gloucestershire	315	30	89	533	39	20	10
866	Swindon	281	40	51	265	21	14	18
880	Torbay	193	23	34	251	19	7	[3]
865	Wiltshire	561	67	127	695	57	37	37

		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total[1]*
	England[1]	8,360	9,390	7,770	72,340	71,720	343,840
	North East[1]	340	360	250	3,360	2,950	14,910
841	Darlington	30	33	18	608	248	1,510
840	Durham	87	78	58	771	955	3,700
390	Gateshead	10	3	4	56	144	440
805	Hartlepool	10	19	18	101	47	470
806	Middlesbrough	8	32	14	243	107	800
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	20	39	23	310	203	1,430
392	North Tyneside	18	24	26	126	137	850
929	Northumberland	77	42	35	537	323	2,120
807	Redcar and Cleveland	11	28	14	168	167	750
393	South Tyneside	26	19	18	141	239	970
808	Stockton-on-Tees	28	24	17	159	96	870
394	Sunderland	12	23	8	144	285	1,000
	North West[1, 4]	1,470	1,310	1,020	10,580	10,460	49,640
889	Blackburn with Darwen	19	18	18	150	93	820
890	Blackpool	35	16	14	271	70	970
350	Bolton	36	85	46	856	172	2,470
351	Bury[4]	58	44	33	459	201	1,700
875	Cheshire	266	139	117	956	559	4,760
909	Cumbria	87	96	94	995	1,270	4,500
876	Halton	30	22	12	159	30	620
340	Knowsley	15	19	10	111	191	710
888	Lancashire	227	169	164	1,330	1,493	7,040
341	Liverpool	34	81	22	378	746	1,990
352	Manchester	96	152	99	859	971	4,480
353	Oldham	60	31	34	231	921	2,150
354	Rochdale	33	48	43	315	428	1,600
355	Salford	43	38	23	463	51	1,420
343	Sefton	21	6	22	86	168	580
342	St. Helens	31	32	16	199	295	1,070
356	Stockport	73	68	52	525	539	2,540
357	Tameside	61	54	35	459	432	2,190

		Drug and alcohol related	Damage	Theft	Persistent disruptive behaviour	Other	Total[2]
358	Trafford	34	27	26	126	358	1,200
877	Warrington	52	45	27	275	325	1,570
359	Wigan	60	39	49	807	555	2,600
344	Wirral	100	77	64	565	593	2,670
	Yorkshire and the Humber	990	1,190	760	10,700	6,790	42,050
370	Barnsley	28	35	21	201	222	1,050
380	Bradford	104	93	104	797	726	4,230
381	Calderdale	90	49	29	297	380	1,760
371	Doncaster	38	64	27	633	528	2,570
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	70	92	57	847	457	3,090
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	26	87	22	619	247	2,370
382	Kirklees	55	76	71	688	819	3,430
383	Leeds	141	155	153	1,595	942	6,070
812	North East Lincolnshire	13	51	13	478	634	1,970
813	North Lincolnshire	76	45	20	430	121	1,390
815	North Yorkshire	150	129	72	1,032	106	3,260
372	Rotherham	23	69	17	405	344	2,120
373	Sheffield	72	98	37	1,088	714	4,110
384	Wakefield	67	114	68	1,298	433	3,620
816	York	38	28	48	295	118	1,010
	East Midlands[1]	670	770	550	6,050	5,920	28,440
831	Derby	21	29	20	324	289	1,260
830	Derbyshire	82	92	73	516	1,468	4,040
856	Leicester	55	113	44	413	425	2,370
855	Leicestershire	112	128	93	1,242	497	4,270
925	Lincolnshire	84	74	79	647	373	2,930
928	Northamptonshire	155	149	119	1,338	999	5,780
892	Nottingham	38	43	32	446	248	1,790
891	Nottinghamshire	120	136	87	1,112	1,616	5,920
857	Rutland	6	[3]—	4	13	7	90
	West Midlands[1]	690	1,160	780	6,450	8,700	36,390
330	Birmingham	122	256	201	1,213	3,230	8,740
331	Coventry	45	81	47	413	783	2,410
332	Dudley	35	91	49	564	718	2,850
884	Herefordshire	15	23	24	93	306	960
333	Sandwell	38	80	54	367	356	1,840
893	Shropshire	43	35	40	242	487	1,690
334	Staffordshire	10	86	41	312	241	1,420
860	Solihull	98	118	80	885	773	4,670
861	Stoke-on-Trent	9	46	36	292	277	1,640
894	Telford and Wrekin	46	49	17	412	292	1,820
335	Walsall	16	56	16	302	133	1,340
937	Warwickshire	117	89	68	469	545	2,900
336	Wolverhampton	29	47	36	233	287	1,450
885	Worcestershire	66	107	71	653	267	2,670
	East of England[1]	1,130	960	870	7,690	7,750	36,920
820	Bedfordshire	66	77	43	552	424	2,400
873	Cambridgeshire	119	73	87	503	624	2,710
881	Essex	356	287	246	2,531	2,787	11,960
919	Hertfordshire	271	189	211	1,250	1,217	6,050
821	Luton	17	22	40	207	302	1,260
926	Norfolk	110	89	44	662	661	3,730
874	Peterborough	49	46	48	384	124	1,510
882	Southend-on-Sea	22	20	29	125	273	920
935	Suffolk	100	117	97	1,187	824	4,770
883	Thurrock	16	43	29	292	517	1,610

		Drug and alcohol related	Damage	Theft	Persistent disruptive behaviour	Other	Total[2]
	London[3, 4]	680	1,100	1,470	6,070	9,310	38,600
	Inner London[3, 4]	160	260	380	1,780	2,740	11,460
202	Camden[4]	28	30	33	130	118	820
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
204	Hackney	12	24	15	151	103	830
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	12	6	23	48	69	290
309	Haringey	15	34	42	217	338	1,250
206	Islington	12	8	12	51	91	530
207	Kensington and Chelsea	6	17	16	98	84	350
208	Lambeth	9	18	28	120	370	1,010
209	Lewisham	3	46	42	249	242	1,350
316	Newham	15	18	67	292	506	1,940
210	Southwark	12	12	19	149	143	720
211	Tower Hamlets	10	28	31	75	233	890
212	Wandsworth	15	7	26	105	304	850
213	Westminster	8	14	26	92	143	640
	Outer London[3]	530	840	1,090	4,290	6,570	27,140
301	Barking and Dagenham	4	29	25	160	86	650
302	Barnet	39	25	115	231	517	1,760
303	Bexley	32	82	49	150	410	1,660
304	Brent	16	40	55	331	254	1,750
305	Bromley	14	21	33	93	330	930
306	Croydon	30	32	55	216	81	990
307	Ealing	55	80	69	274	788	2,020
308	Enfield	39	55	105	396	250	1,950
203	Greenwich	52	65	52	482	406	2,470
310	Harrow	4	30	77	147	251	1,170
311	Havering	20	38	41	104	508	1,240
312	Hillingdon	27	70	46	192	724	1,640
313	Hounslow	27	38	55	159	258	1,180
314	Kingston upon Thames	8	22	29	77	115	550
315	Merton	31	45	28	158	256	1,050
317	Redbridge	30	48	65	206	475	1,560
318	Richmond upon Thames	23	20	37	143	35	720
319	Sutton	17	30	84	328	212	1,380
320	Waltham Forest	58	68	68	441	613	2,480
	South East[3]	1,380	1,450	1,370	13,240	12,690	60,260
867	Bracknell Forest	15	16	12	153	60	600
846	Brighton and Hove	49	46	38	552	244	2,000
825	Buckinghamshire	65	75	102	273	600	2,260
845	East Sussex	92	105	106	1,055	1,516	5,190
850	Hampshire	273	195	249	2,516	1,162	9,510
921	Isle of Wight	42	17	10	212	364	1,150
886	Kent	126	259	195	1,798	3,327	10,510
887	Medway	32	72	28	1,036	349	2,940
826	Milton Keynes	45	27	45	208	210	1,070
931	Oxfordshire	159	114	85	838	306	3,630
851	Portsmouth	56	37	28	408	558	2,090
870	Reading	14	11	9	116	80	530
871	Slough	4	22	11	38	190	450
852	Southampton	28	62	45	520	341	2,510
936	Surrey	187	186	219	1,398	2,357	8,000
869	West Berkshire	37	35	16	280	285	1,140
938	West Sussex	126	125	119	1,500	483	5,230
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	15	20	16	116	137	620
872	Wokingham	19	22	37	218	117	850
	South West[3]	1,010	1,090	690	8,200	7,150	36,630
800	Bath and North East Somerset	40	32	33	228	153	1,140
837	Bournemouth	28	12	25	140	118	730

		Drug and alcohol related	Damage	Theft	Persistent disruptive behaviour	Other	Total[1]
801	Bristol, City of	52	135	35	730	740	3,340
908	Cornwall	77	54	37	372	726	2,550
878	Devon	166	143	125	1,259	1,764	6,740
835	Dorset	60	64	71	378	496	1,950
916	Gloucestershire	85	104	104	873	1,058	4,100
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	51	48	20	110	325	1,160
879	Plymouth	61	36	21	232	118	1,190
836	Poole	33	32	25	338	74	1,410
933	Somerset	142	130	55	1,264	133	4,320
803	South Gloucestershire	38	68	55	324	644	2,170
866	Swindon	12	68	16	440	479	1,710
880	Torbay	28	57	10	243	96	960
865	Wiltshire	137	110	59	1,068	221	3,130

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] Totals for England, each region and across all reasons for exclusion have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] There were four fixed period exclusions in Camden and Bury local authorities for which reason for exclusion has not been established. These have been included in the total column only.
[5] One or two exclusions.
Source:
School Census

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion (estimates)[3] 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	Physical assault against an adult	Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	Bullying	Racist abuse	Sexual misconduct
	England[4]	1,260	740	330	900	80	30	110
	North East[4]	60	50	10	60	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
841	Darlington	6	5	[5]—	9	0	0	0
840	Durham	10	7	4	15	0	0	0
390	Gateshead	3	5	[5]—	6	0	0	0
805	Hartlepool	6	[5]—	[5]—	3	0	[5]—	0
806	Middlesbrough	[5]—	[5]—	0	[5]—	0	0	[5]—
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	7	13	0	5	0	0	0
392	North Tyneside	[5]—	0	[5]—	[5]—	0	0	0
929	Northumberland	15	10	[5]—	8	[5]—	0	0
807	Redcar and Cleveland	3	[5]—	0	[5]—	0	0	0
393	South Tyneside	3	4	0	[5]—	0	0	0
808	Stockton-on-Tees	[5]—	[5]—	0	5	0	0	[5]—
394	Sunderland	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	0	0	0
	North West[4,5]	170	120	40	140	10	[5]—	10
889	Blackburn with Darwen	6	3	0	7	0	0	0
890	Blackpool	9	9	[5]—	3	0	0	[5]—
350	Bolton	6	7	0	0	0	0	0
351	Bury	6	0	[5]—	6	[5]—	0	0
875	Cheshire	19	12	8	16	[5]—	0	0
909	Cumbria	[5]—	7	3	5	0	0	[5]—
876	Halton	12	4	[5]—	5	0	0	0
340	Knowsley	14	3	4	4	0	0	[5]—
888	Lancashire	28	26	5	30	4	[5]—	0
341	Liverpool	13	[5]—	0	5	[5]—	0	0
352	Manchester	7	11	0	8	0	0	0
353	Oldham	13	3	[5]—	7	0	0	[5]—
354	Rochdale[5]	7	4	[5]—	4	0	0	0
355	Salford	7	11	[5]—	8	[5]—	0	[5]—
343	Sefton	4	3	[5]—	5	0	0	0
342	St. Helens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
356	Stockport	7	3	[5]—	9	0	0	0
357	Tameside	3	8	[5]—	[5]—	0	[5]—	0

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion (estimates)[3] 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
358	Trafford	3	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	0	0
877	Warrington	[c]	3	0	3	0	0	0
359	Wigan	4	3	[c]	3	0	0	[c]
344	Wirral	[c]	4	[c]	7	0	0	[c]
	Yorkshire and the Humber	120	70	20	80	[c]	[c]	10
370	Barnsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
380	Bradford	17	6	4	6	[c]	[c]	[c]
381	Calderdale	6	3	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	0
371	Doncaster	6	4	3	9	0	0	0
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	4	3	[c]	[c]	[c]	0	[c]
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	6	14	[c]	6	0	0	[c]
382	Kirklees	7	7	0	10	0	0	0
383	Leeds	19	12	[c]	8	0	0	[c]
812	North East Lincolnshire	[c]	[c]	0	3	0	0	0
813	North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
815	North Yorkshire	3	[c]	[c]	9	0	0	[c]
372	Rotherham	4	[c]	[c]	5	0	[c]	0
373	Sheffield	27	5	4	14	[c]	0	[c]
384	Wakefield	13	4	0	6	0	0	[c]
816	York	10	3	4	7	0	0	0
	East Midlands[4]	120	80	30	100	10	[c]	10
831	Derby	4	[c]	[c]	3	[c]	0	0
830	Derbyshire	18	9	[c]	6	[c]	0	0
856	Leicester	14	7	3	9	0	0	5
855	Leicestershire	18	14	4	19	6	0	[c]
925	Lincolnshire	13	8	9	17	4	4	[c]
928	Northamptonshire	16	14	4	20	[c]	0	0
892	Nottingham	7	7	[c]	8	[c]	0	0
891	Nottinghamshire	31	16	[c]	17	[c]	0	[c]
857	Rutland	0	[c]	0	0	0	0	0
	West Midlands[4]	120	80	30	110	10	10	10
330	Birmingham	42	15	12	20	3	0	8
331	Coventry	[c]	0	0	5	0	0	0
332	Dudley	[c]	5	0	16	0	[c]	[c]
884	Herefordshire	[c]	3	0	0	0	0	0
333	Sandwell	8	12	[c]	3	[c]	0	[c]
893	Shropshire	[c]	[c]	0	3	[c]	0	0
334	Solihull	9	4	[c]	3	[c]	[c]	0
860	Staffordshire	14	11	9	13	[c]	0	[c]
861	Stoke-on-Trent	3	3	[c]	3	0	[c]	0
894	Telford and Wrekin	5	6	0	4	0	0	0
335	Walsall	3	[c]	[c]	5	0	0	0
937	Warwickshire	18	6	4	13	[c]	[c]	[c]
336	Wolverhampton	3	[c]	0	0	0	0	0
885	Worcestershire	11	10	[c]	18	6	0	0
	East of England[4]	110	50	30	70	10	[c]	10
820	Bedfordshire	18	8	7	7	[c]	0	0
873	Cambridgeshire	3	[c]	0	0	[c]	0	0
881	Essex	18	11	6	21	3	0	[c]
919	Hertfordshire	28	9	8	23	[c]	[c]	[c]
821	Luton	5	3	[c]	0	0	0	0
926	Norfolk	8	5	0	8	[c]	[c]	0
874	Peterborough	7	0	[c]	5	0	0	0
882	Southend-on-Sea	4	3	[c]	[c]	0	0	0

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion (estimates)[3] 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
935	Suffolk	11	4	8	8	[4]	0	3
883	Thurrock	[4]	4	0	0	0	0	[4]
	London[5]	280	120	70	110	20	[7]	30
	Inner London[5]	90	50	10	30	[7]	[7]	[7]
202	Camden	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	0	0
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
204	Hackney	6	6	0	[4]	0	0	[4]
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	0	[4]	0	0	[4]	0	0
309	Haringey	3	5	[4]	3	0	0	0
206	Islington	4	[4]	0	0	0	0	[4]
207	Kensington and Chelsea	[4]	0	0	0	0	0	0
208	Lambeth	11	[4]	[4]	3	[4]	0	0
209	Lewisham	10	6	3	0	0	0	0
316	Newham	8	5	[4]	7	0	[4]	[4]
210	Southwark	13	5	5	8	0	0	0
211	Tower Hamlets	15	9	0	4	[4]	0	0
212	Wandsworth	9	4	[4]	0	0	0	[4]
213	Westminster	8	[4]	0	[4]	0	0	0
	Outer London[5]	190	70	60	80	10	[7]	30
301	Barking and Dagenham	5	3	[4]	3	0	0	5
302	Barnet	4	3	3	[4]	0	0	[4]
303	Bexley	8	3	[4]	3	0	0	0
304	Brent	20	7	[4]	6	0	0	0
305	Bromley	8	6	6	5	3	0	6
306	Croydon	23	8	11	6	[4]	0	0
307	Ealing	7	[4]	[4]	4	0	0	0
308	Enfield	13	10	[4]	7	0	[4]	7
203	Greenwich	16	[4]	8	11	[4]	[4]	[4]
310	Harrow	10	4	[4]	[4]	[4]	0	[4]
311	Havering	13	6	5	4	0	0	0
312	Hillingdon	7	6	0	4	0	0	0
313	Hounslow	15	6	[4]	8	[4]	0	[4]
314	Kingston upon Thames	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
315	Merton	9	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	0	[4]
317	Redbridge	5	[4]	5	6	[4]	0	3
318	Richmond upon Thames	3	[4]	3	[4]	0	0	0
319	Sutton	7	[4]	[4]	6	0	0	0
320	Waltham Forest	9	[4]	3	[4]	0	0	0
	South East[5]	170	90	60	150	10	[7]	20
867	Bracknell Forest	0	[4]	[4]	[4]	0	0	0
846	Brighton and Hove	3	4	0	[4]	0	0	0
825	Buckinghamshire	8	7	0	7	0	0	4
845	East Sussex	16	4	4	4	0	0	0
850	Hampshire	29	15	11	29	0	0	[4]
921	Isle of Wight	[4]	[4]	[4]	4	0	0	0
886	Kent	36	14	10	31	[4]	0	6
887	Medway	3	4	0	4	0	0	0
826	Milton Keynes	8	3	[4]	6	0	0	0
931	Oxfordshire	7	[4]	3	13	[4]	0	[4]
851	Portsmouth	[4]	3	0	[4]	0	0	0
870	Reading	3	[4]	[4]	[4]	0	0	0
871	Slough	[4]	[4]	[4]	0	0	0	0
852	Southampton	3	6	[4]	[4]	0	0	0
936	Surrey	19	4	13	21	4	0	[4]
869	West Berkshire	7	4	0	5	0	0	0
938	West Sussex	18	10	7	10	[4]	[4]	0

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion (estimates)[3] 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	3	[c]	0	[c]	0	0	0
872	Wokingham	8	4	6	3	0	0	[c]
	South West[4]	110	70	40	80	[z]	[z]	10
800	Bath and North East Somerset	5	[c]	[c]	[c]	0	0	0
837	Bournemouth	6	5	[c]	0	0	0	0
801	Bristol, City of	12	8	[c]	3	0	0	0
908	Cornwall	6	8	3	13	[c]	0	[c]
878	Devon	14	8	6	11	[c]	0	[c]
835	Dorset	3	[c]	[c]	[c]	0	0	0
916	Gloucestershire	9	5	6	13	0	0	[c]
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	3	[c]	0	0	0	0	0
879	Plymouth	6	11	[c]	10	[c]	[c]	3
836	Poole	4	[c]	[c]	3	0	0	0
933	Somerset	21	8	4	11	[c]	0	[c]
803	South Gloucestershire	9	4	[c]	7	0	0	[c]
866	Swindon	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
880	Torbay	4	3	0	6	0	0	0
865	Wiltshire	7	7	[c]	9	0	0	0

		Number of fixed period exclusions					
		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total*[5]
	England[6]	450	170	220	2,370	1,340	7,990
	North East[4]	30	10	10	100	50	380
841	Darlington	[c]	0	[c]	9	9	40
840	Durham	4	0	0	11	12	60
390	Gateshead	[c]	0	0	8	4	30
805	Hartlepool	[c]	0	0	7	0	20
806	Middlesbrough	0	0	0	6	[c]	10
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	3	4	6	23	3	70
392	North Tyneside	0	0	0	[c]	[c]	10
929	Northumberland	9	3	[c]	14	8	70
807	Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	[c]	8	[c]	20
393	South Tyneside	3	0	[c]	7	8	30
808	Stockton-on-Tees	[c]	[c]	0	5	[c]	20
394	Sunderland	[c]	0	0	0	0	[z]
	North West[4,7]	60	30	40	320	170	1,120
889	Blackburn with Darwen	0	4	0	7	3	30
890	Blackpool	0	[c]	0	5	7	40
350	Bolton	[c]	[c]	[c]	14	[c]	30
351	Bury	0	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	20
875	Cheshire	7	3	[c]	57	11	140
909	Cumbria	8	0	[c]	13	4	40
876	Halton	[c]	[c]	0	7	0	30
340	Knowsley	0	0	[c]	6	5	40
888	Lancashire	17	4	7	78	40	240
341	Liverpool	0	[c]	4	12	15	50
352	Manchester	[c]	3	4	15	14	60
353	Oldham	4	0	[c]	6	20	60
354	Rochdale[5]	0	0	3	9	13	40
355	Salford	4	4	[c]	9	[c]	50
343	Sefton	0	0	[c]	9	3	30
342	St. Helens	0	0	0	0	0	0

		Number of fixed period exclusions					
		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total*[1]
356	Stockport	7	[x]	11	9	11	60
357	Tameside	3	3	0	24	8	50
358	Trafford	3	0	0	4	3	20
877	Warrington	[x]	0	0	12	4	30
359	Wigan	[x]	0	[x]	3	[x]	20
344	Wirral	4	[x]	0	14	5	40
	Yorkshire and the Humber	40	10	10	190	110	680
370	Barnsley	0	0	0	[x]	[x]	[x]
380	Bradford	6	0	0	19	17	80
381	Calderdale	10	0	[x]	15	7	50
371	Doncaster	[x]	[x]	0	18	7	50
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	[x]	3	0	7	7	30
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	[x]	[x]	[x]	6	6	40
382	Kirklees	0	0	[x]	10	9	40
383	Leeds	3	[x]	[x]	20	16	90
812	North East Lincolnshire	[x]	[x]	[x]	17	10	40
813	North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
815	North Yorkshire	4	[x]	[x]	16	[x]	40
372	Rotherham	0	[x]	0	8	13	40
373	Sheffield	[x]	4	0	26	15	100
384	Wakefield	5	0	[x]	14	4	50
816	York	4	0	[x]	13	0	40
	East Midlands[2]	50	10	10	220	120	770
831	Derby	[x]	0	[x]	8	5	30
830	Derbyshire	9	[x]	[x]	31	43	120
856	Leicester	[x]	[x]	[x]	6	7	60
855	Leicestershire	9	[x]	[x]	40	8	120
925	Lincolnshire	12	3	5	39	9	130
928	Northamptonshire	10	4	[x]	52	11	130
892	Nottingham	4	3	[x]	9	7	50
891	Nottinghamshire	6	0	[x]	36	27	160
857	Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	[x]
	West Midlands[2]	50	20	20	240	170	870
330	Birmingham	11	4	8	52	71	250
331	Coventry	0	[x]	0	[x]	0	10
332	Dudley	0	7	0	9	23	70
884	Herefordshire	[x]	0	0	10	5	20
333	Sandwell	6	[x]	[x]	19	17	70
893	Shropshire	[x]	0	0	3	6	20
334	Solihull	0	[x]	[x]	19	6	50
860	Staffordshire	10	0	[x]	35	11	110
861	Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	0	[x]	7	20
894	Telford and Wrekin	6	[x]	0	11	8	40
335	Walsall	0	0	[x]	7	3	20
937	Warwickshire	6	[x]	3	39	8	100
336	Wolverhampton	5	0	0	[x]	[x]	10
885	Worcestershire	3	[x]	[x]	26	4	80
	East of England[2]	40	20	30	260	100	730
820	Bedfordshire	6	[x]	4	18	9	80
873	Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	[x]	[x]	10
881	Essex	7	7	[x]	71	27	180
919	Hertfordshire	11	[x]	8	82	26	200
821	Luton	[x]	0	3	11	3	30
926	Norfolk	11	3	3	24	7	70
874	Peterborough	0	0	[x]	13	[x]	30
882	Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	14	7	30
935	Suffolk	5	5	3	19	12	80

		Number of fixed period exclusions					
		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total*[1]
883	Thurrock	[6]—	0	0	9	5	20
	London[4]	70	10	50	320	290	1,360
	Inner London[4]	10	[7]—	10	50	110	370
202	Camden	0	0	0	4	[6]—	10
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	
204	Hackney	0	0	0	3	8	30
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	4	0	0	4	0	10
309	Haringey	[6]—	0	0	0	18	30
206	Islington	0	0	[6]—	[6]—	4	10
207	Kensington and Chelsea	[6]—	0	[6]—	6	[6]—	10
208	Lambeth	3	0	0	4	5	30
209	Lewisham	0	0	0	3	5	30
316	Newham	0	0	[6]—	10	22	60
210	Southwark	0	0	0	0	3	40
211	Tower Hamlets	[6]—	[6]—	3	3	23	60
212	Wandsworth	[6]—	0	[7]-	9	15	40
213	Westminster	0	0	0	5	3	20
	Outer London[4]	60	10	40	270	180	990
301	Barking and Dagenham	0	0	[6]—	13	7	40
302	Barnet	3	0	[6]—	13	10	40
303	Bexley	[6]—	[6]—	0	14	16	50
304	Brent	[6]—	0	0	29	13	80
305	Bromley	5	[6]—	0	19	23	80
306	Croydon	6	[6]—	7	33	13	110
307	Ealing	7	[6]—	6	17	12	70
308	Enfield	[6]—	0	3	20	8	70
203	Greenwich	[6]—	0	[6]—	13	18	70
310	Harrow	[6]—	0	0	3	3	30
311	Havering	6	0	[6]—	6	7	50
312	Hillingdon	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	8	22	50
313	Hounslow	7	[6]—	[6]—	32	4	80
314	Kingston upon Thames	[6]—	0	[6]—	0	[6]—	10
315	Merton	[6]—	0	3	9	3	30
317	Redbridge	[6]—	[6]—	3	9	5	40
318	Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	6	[6]—	20
319	Sutton	5	0	4	6	3	30
320	Waltham Forest	3	[6]—	0	17	9	50
	South East[4]	70	30	40	430	240	1,310
867	Bracknell Forest	3	0	0	12	4	20
846	Brighton and Hove	[6]—	4	[6]—	12	[6]—	30
825	Buckinghamshire	5	[6]—	[6]—	8	12	50
845	East Sussex	5	3	[6]—	22	17	80
850	Hampshire	4	3	4	50	10	160
921	Isle of Wight	[6]—	[6]—	0	[6]—	[6]—	10
886	Kent	12	7	12	78	101	310
887	Medway	[6]—	0	0	17	5	40
826	Milton Keynes	0	0	4	10	10	50
931	Oxfordshire	5	[6]—	0	24	6	70
851	Portsmouth	0	3	0	[6]—	4	10
870	Reading	0	[6]—	0	9	3	20
871	Slough	0	0	0	0	[6]—	[7]—
852	Southampton	[6]—	0	[6]—	5	[6]—	20
936	Surrey	6	0	[6]—	79	34	180
869	West Berkshire	5	3	[6]—	13	9	50
938	West Sussex	17	[6]—	3	77	10	160
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	8	3	20
872	Wokingham	[6]—	[6]—	4	6	3	30

		Number of fixed period exclusions					
		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total*[1]
	South West[4]	40	20	20	290	80	770
800	Bath and North East Somerset	4	4	[6]—	15	3	40
837	Bournemouth	[6]—	0	[6]—	0	0	20
801	Bristol, City of	4	0	3	15	7	50
908	Cornwall	3	[6]—	[6]—	37	14	90
878	Devon	[6]—	0	[6]—	40	16	100
835	Dorset	[6]—	0	[6]—	7	3	20
916	Gloucestershire	11	[6]—	[6]—	48	20	120
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	[7]—
802	North Somerset	4	0	0	5	0	10
879	Plymouth	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	13	[6]—	50
836	Poole	0	[6]—	[6]—	13	0	30
933	Somerset	5	3	[6]—	31	3	90
803	South Gloucestershire	[6]—	0	[6]—	9	8	40
866	Swindon	0	[6]—	0	15	3	30
880	Torbay	0	0	0	14	[6]—	20
865	Wiltshire	[6]—	3	[6]—	33	4	70

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] Estimates based on incomplete pupil level data.
[4] Totals for England, each region and across all reasons for exclusion have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[5] There are two permanent exclusions in Rochdale local authority for which reason for exclusion has not been established. These have been included in the total column only.
[6] One or two exclusions
[7]— Less than five exclusions
Source:
School Census

TREASURY

Employment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* women, *(b)* single parents and *(c)* people were in work in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997; [156033]

(2) what the level of *(a)* adult and *(b)* youth unemployment was in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997; [156035]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. The relevant tables have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about employment and unemployment. (156032, 156033, 156034, 156035)

These questions ask for the same information as questions received in July this year, and I refer you to the answer given in *Official Report* volume 463 of 26 July, column 1460.

However, since the previous questions were answered, we now have new employment and unemployment data from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for April 2006 to March 2007, and the April to June 2007 Labour Force Survey (LFS) household dataset.

As in the previous answer, Table 1, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were in employment, for the 12 months ending in March 2007 from the APS. The table also shows employment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Tables 2 to 4 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

For unitary and local authorities, the ONS produces estimates of total unemployment, following ILO definitions, from a statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas and breakdowns are compiled from the annual local area LFS and the APS following ILO definitions.

Table 5, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were unemployed, for the 12 months ending March 2007, from the APS. The table also shows unemployment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Tables 6 to 8 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

Table 9, attached shows employment levels, unemployment levels and rates for lone parents aged 16 and over and employment rates for lone parents of working age, resident in the South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain, for the three months ending in June, for 2007 from the LFS household datasets. Data for the Jarrow constituency are unavailable as Parliamentary Constituency markers are not held in this dataset.

The estimates in Tables 1-9 are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes for the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside metropolitan borough are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

Smuggling: Birds

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many incidents of wild bird smuggling have been recorded by HM Revenue and Customs since 1 July 2007. [156833]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) enforcement powers in relation to wild birds apply to those species listed as endangered under Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection species of wild fauna and flora.

HMRC records show no detentions or seizures of wild birds since 1 July 2007.

TRANSPORT

Buoyancy Aids: Fishing Vessels

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has undertaken on the potential to save lives of the introduction of compulsory personal flotation devices to the UK fishing fleet; and if she will make a statement. [156816]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) commissioned research entitled "Practical Application of Regulatory Impact Diagrams to Buoyancy Equipment at Work for Fishermen" which was completed in February 2001. This addressed all factors which may affect the wearing of buoyancy devices at sea.

All fishing vessels are required to carry lifejackets but the report argued that prior to taking a regulatory approach to wearing lifejackets, we needed to identify the needs and experiences of lifejacket users, in order to gauge the requirements for regulations. This finding was supported by research which demonstrated that safety precautions show little correlation with the likelihood of accidents.

Following publication of this report the MCA has participated in research by the Seafish Industry Authority (Seafish) and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute on Lifejacket and Buoyancy Aid Acceptability Trials. The trials of 24 products were in two stages, a test tank assessment to ensure that products are effective when worn with 'sea gear' and long term assessments by fishermen in the course of fishing.

The results of the research have been made available to the industry to inform the purchase and wearing of such equipment and manufacturers of buoyancy aids and lifejackets to inform development.

The MCA has also recently undertaken research on the approach taken to the wearing of lifejackets adopted by other countries, and the effect on casualty statistics, and is currently assessing the findings of this research.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155887]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's projected spending for advertising campaigns for the 2007-08 fiscal year is set out in the following table. Please note, these are anticipated spend and could be subject to change. Additional advertising costs, such as cinema, ambient and online, have been incorporated into 'other' advertising costs.

The main expenditure by the Central Department is in support of the THINK! Road Safety, Act On CO2 and Aviation campaigns. DVLA investment is in support of their vehicle excise duty enforcement, electronic vehicle licensing and sales of marks campaigns.

2007-08

£000

	Television	*Radio*	*Print*	*Other*
Central DfT	6,099	2,350	1,800	3,711
DSA	40	0	50	0
DVLA	3,617	1,567	457	0
HA	0	60	120	20
VOSA	0	0	0	0
MCA	15	0	17	0
VCA	0	0	46	0

The Department's projected spending for advertising campaigns for the 2008-09 fiscal year is more difficult to project because some budgets have yet to be allocated. We anticipate that circa £11 million will be spent by Department for Transport and £4.6 million by Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). Investment in each specific media channel has yet to be finalised.

Breaking down the costs of promotional campaigns for the Department by television, radio and print media for 2007-08 and 2008-09 fiscal years could be done at only disproportionate cost.

Lorries: Licensing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* public service vehicles which should be covered by an operators licence but are not. [156055]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is responsible for the enforcement of road traffic legislation. Records are kept of the number of operator licences issued. An operator licence may list a number of vehicles. The Department's records do not detail the number of vehicles as a percentage of the total heavy goods vehicles and public service vehicles fleets in use.

Although DVLA may have records of HGVs and PSVs registered, some will not require an operator licence. One operator licence holder can have multiple vehicles listed. In addition, it is not mandatory for PSV operators to list all the vehicles that they may use on their operator licence. So the DVLA and VOSA records cannot be directly compared.

Lorries: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent estimate is of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* public service vehicles which should have an annual safety check conducted by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency but do not. [156056]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for the enforcement of road safety legislation. Its records reflect the number of heavy goods vehicles (HGV) and public service vehicles (PSV) which have presented for annual test. Its records do not record this as a percentage of the total HGV and PSV fleets in use.

Although the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) may have records of HGVs and PSV's registered, some may be exempt from annual tests or have been declared as off the road (and therefore not require a certificate.) Also VOSA may have tested some vehicles more than once in a year so the DVLA and VOSA records cannot be directly compared.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Allowances

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend eligibility to carer's allowance to allow a carer to receive carer's allowance in respect of more than one individual in the same household. [153756]

Mrs. McGuire: Carer's allowance is intended principally to provide a measure of financial support for carers who cannot work full-time because they provide at least 35 hours of care a week for a severely disabled person. It is not payable in respect of each disabled person a carer may look after and we have no plans to change these arrangements.

Children: Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases have been outstanding for more than *(a)* one year and *(b)* five years. [154671]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 10 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases have been outstanding for more than (a) one year and (b) five years.

The Agency begins to process new applications as soon as they are received and continues until they have been cleared. Any applications that have not yet been cleared have been regarded as outstanding in the answer to this question. The amount of work required to achieve clearance and the elapsed time it involves varies considerably depending on, amongst other things, the circumstances of the parents and how readily they cooperate with the Agency. As such, the Agency holds only a negligible number of completely unprocessed applications.

At June 2007 the Agency had 39,600 old scheme and 74,400 new scheme uncleared cases over one year old, this represents 8% of total caseload. Of those 33,300 old scheme and 1,500 new scheme uncleared cases were over five years old, this represents 3% of total caseload.

A potential new application is defined as cleared when it:

has had a calculation and a payment arrangement set up (new scheme only) or has had an assessment (old scheme only);

has been closed;

has been identified as having had a good cause decision accepted;

has been identified as being subject to a reduced benefit decision;

has been identified as a change of circumstances to an existing case, as opposed to a new application (new scheme only).

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departments: IT

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many IT contracts were put out to competitive tender by his Department in each year since 1997; how many bidders there were for each tender; and which company won the tender in each case. [155377]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was created in June 2001, prior to that, contractual arrangements were the responsibility of different departments and agencies. Information is provided for contracts awarded since the formation of the Department in 2001.

Wherever possible, the Department makes use of existing framework agreements to procure the full range of IS/IT services. This enables more efficient and faster procurement of services against agreed terms. When this is not possible an advertisement is placed in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Two contracts have been awarded as a result of competitive tender through the Official Journal of the European Union. These are the:

Contract to operate the Resource Management system. Three bids were received and the contract was awarded to Fujitsu in 2004.

Framework to enable the Department to procure the full range of IS/IT services via competitions or single tender. This is referred to as the Unity (UNderpinning IT DeliverY) framework and was awarded in 2005. Thirty four bids were received and thirty two suppliers were included onto the Framework Agreement.

Other contracts awarded since 2001 using either the Unity framework, or the Office of Government Commerce's S-Cat agreement, are:

Contract awarded to	
Accenture	Employment Support Allowance
Accenture	Customer Information System
Accenture	Pensions Transformation Project
Atos	Stand Alone Support Applications
Atos	Debt Management
Atos	Working Age Transformation and Change. Benefit Processing Replacement Programme
Atos	Bank Liaison Automation System
Energis	Government Secure Intranet (GSI)
IBM	Working Age Transformation and Change. Benefit Processing Replacement Programme
IBM	Customer Management System
Oracle	Resource Management
Logica	Pensions Regulator
Siemens	Central Payments System
Xansa	Work Train Project

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* estimated and *(b)* outturn (i) cost and (ii) duration was of each IT contract tendered by his Department since 1997. [155378]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was created in June 2001, prior to that, contractual arrangements were the responsibility of different departments and agencies. Information is provided for contracts awarded since the formation of the Department in 2001.

Outturn figures are not available until the contract has ended, so the most recently estimated contract outturn or cost to date has been provided in the following table.

Contract	*Contract estimate (£ million)*	*Most recently estimated contract outturn (£ million)*	*Duration (to)*
Accenture			
Employment Support Allowance Stage 1	9.23	9.23	Oct 2008
Customer Information System	47.38	47.38	2008
Pensions Transformation Project	181.3	165.1	2010-11
ATOS Origin			
Stand'Alone Small Applications	2.66	2.66	2009
Debt Management	22.4	14.8 (cost to date)	2008
Working Age Transformation and Change, Benefit Processing Replacement Programme	0.495	0.495	June 2006
Bank Liaison Automation System Technology	0.66	0.66	February 2009
Energis			
Government Secure Intranet (GSI) Anti Virus Protection	1.722	1.722	2005
Fujitsu			
Resource Management (Operate)	44.83	44.83	2009
IBM			
Working Age Transformation and Change, Benefit Processing Replacement Programme	123.4	49.8	2007
Customer Management System	103	103	2006
Oracle			
Resource Management Application Development and Support	32.2	32.2	2007
Logica			
Pensions Regulator	0.649	0.649	2005
Siemens			
Central Payments System	59.6	59.6	December 2010
Xansa			
Work Train Project	9.5	9.5	November 2008

Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of telephone calls to his Department from members of the public are recorded for training purposes. [154643]

Mrs. McGuire: All calls to the Department's contact centres are recorded and may be used for training purposes except:

when technical issues arise;

textphone calls;

eight Jobcentre Plus sites do not have the technical ability to record calls; and

National Benefit Fraud Hotline calls due to their sensitive nature.

Calls made directly to the operational teams and local services are not recorded.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2281-2W, on disability living allowance, whether a decision by a customer to begin work amounts to change in circumstances; and to what extent such a decision affects eligibility for disability living allowance or the amount awarded. [155653]

Mrs. McGuire: Customers in receipt of Disability Living Allowance who begin work do not have to report that event as a change of circumstances unless their care and/or mobility needs have changed in the period leading up to them beginning work or as a result of beginning work.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to assess the likely effect of proposed legislation on people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [153751]

Mrs. McGuire: To meet the requirements of the Disability Equality Duty, Government Departments must assess the likely impact of proposed legislation on disability equality. The disability equality duty, which was introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, came into force on 4 December 2006. It requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate disability discrimination and promote disability equality when carrying out their functions.

The general duty applies across the full range of public sector activity, including service delivery, policy making, procurement and performance management. Additional duties are imposed by regulations on certain public authorities, including all Government Departments, to produce and implement a disability equality scheme in which the authority must set out its methods for assessing the impact on equality for disabled people of its proposed policies and practices.

While the Disability Equality Duty provides the framework for assessing the impact of policies on disabled people the precise mechanism for carrying out the assessments is up to each Government Department to determine and set out in their scheme.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people are resident in the UK; what mechanisms are used to estimate that figure; and if he will make a statement. [153752]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that there are over 10 million disabled people in Britain.

This estimate covers the number of people with a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities. It is based on data taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS).

Everyone in this group would meet the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA); however, these estimates do not reflect the total number of people covered by the DDA as the FRS does not collect this information.

The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining response bias.

The Government's vision is that by 2025 all disabled people should have the same opportunities and choices as everyone else, be respected as equal members of society and be able to participate as equals in every aspect of family and community life.

National Insurance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many National Insurance numbers were issued to non-UK citizens living in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997, broken down by nationality. [154072]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2002-03. The available information has been placed in the Library.

UK Commission for Employment and Skills: Public Appointments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how appointments will be made to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills; and what matters in respect of environmental sustainability will be taken into account in the work of the Commission. [152218]

Caroline Flint: Appointments will be made to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills through fair and open competition and under the guidelines issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Skills development is a fundamental part of the drive for environmental sustainability and the UK Commission will be aiming to increase skill levels in all sectors and in all disciplines as it moves to meet the aspirations set out in the Leitch report.

Employment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many *(a)* women and *(b)* single parents were unemployed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [156032]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. The relevant tables have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about employment and unemployment. (156032, 156033, 156034, 156035)

These questions ask for the same information as questions received in July this year, and I refer you to the answer given in *Official Report* volume 463 of 26 July, column 1460.

However, since the previous questions were answered, we now have new employment and unemployment data from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for April 2006 to March 2007, and the April to June 2007 Labour Force Survey (LFS) household dataset.

As in the previous answer, Table 1, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were in employment, for the 12 months ending in March 2007 from the APS. The table also shows employment rates which allow changes to be seen in the

context of changing population numbers. Tables 2 to 4 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

For unitary and local authorities, the ONS produces estimates of total unemployment, following ILO definitions, from a statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas and breakdowns are compiled from the annual local area LFS and the APS following ILO definitions.

Table 5, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were unemployed, for the 12 months ending March 2007, from the APS. The table also shows unemployment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Tables 6 to 8 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

Table 9, attached shows employment levels, unemployment levels and rates for lone parents aged 16 and over and employment rates for lone parents of working age, resident in the South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain, for the three months ending in June, for 2007 from the LFS household datasets. Data for the Jarrow constituency are unavailable as Parliamentary Constituency markers are not held in this dataset.

The estimates in Tables 1-9 are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes for the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside metropolitan borough are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

JUSTICE

Arrests: Foreigners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals arrested in the Northern Basic Command Unit of Cambridgeshire Constabulary area were non-UK citizens of the European Union in each quarter since May 2004. [156825]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection undertaken by my Department only provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity and main offence group. Aggregated data, collected centrally from the 43 police force areas in England and Wales, are available at police force area level only and do not record the nationality of arrestees.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of uninsured drivers in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area in each recording period since May 2004; and if he will make a statement. [156826]

Maria Eagle: Available information for the Cambridgeshire police force area are taken from the Court Proceedings database held by my Department, from May to December 2004 (latest available) shows there were 1,840 proceedings and 1,560 findings of guilt for the offence of 'using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks'.

2005 data will be available later this year.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much fuel was consumed by UK armed forces in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each month since the beginning of operations. [154225]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the monthly consumption rates of fuel as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

I am able to provide the total amount of fuel consumed by UK forces in Afghanistan and Iraq for those dates highlighted and this is shown in the following tables. Data are not held centrally on the dates prior to those stated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan—total fuels consumed since October 2006-June 2007

	Litres
Aviation fuel	71.7 million
Diesel	2.75 million
Petrol	85 thousand

This includes a small portion consumed by multinational elements of Task Force Helmand/ Regional Command (South).

Iraq—total fuels consumed since January 2005-August 2007

	Litres
Aviation Fuel	132.3 million
Diesel	66.7 million
Petrol	12.8 million

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much depleted uranium ammunition has been used by British forces in Operation Herrick since 2002. [156824]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No depleted uranium ammunition has been used by UK forces in Operation Herrick since 2002.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what percentage of time *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ark Royal were (i) on operations and (ii) undergoing maintenance in each year since 1997. [154256]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 129W, on animal experiments, what his timetable is for making the appointments. [156249]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that a team has been appointed to examine the future of animal testing in support of a possible future submarine escape and rescue research programme. The team comprises a core group of six specialists supported by a number of independent external advisers. It is led by an ex-military scientist, qualified to postdoctorate level, supported by subject matter experts in defence related human physiology research, submarine design and operation, and law pertaining to the use of animals in scientific research. The group of external advisers includes leading academics in the field of human physiology.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hyperbaric experiments have been carried out on live goats since March 2007; what plans he has to commission future experiments; and if he will make a statement. [156604]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that no hyperbaric experiments using goats have been conducted since March 2007.

A number of studies reviewing the need for further use of goats in this research programme are currently being undertaken. These studies take into account MOD's duty of care to sustain the health and welfare of submarine crews and to provide them with the ability to operate safely and effectively. The teams are investigating a range of options for submarine escape and rescue, and life support, including and excluding animal experimentation.

Any plans to conduct further experiments using goats are subject to the findings of this review.

Armed Forces: Gliding

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the unit costs of *(a)* tug and *(b)* winch launches when used for glider flights as part of armed forces training courses. [156200]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The estimated unit cost of a tug launch and a winch launch for glider flights as part of training courses is shown as follows:

Type of launch	*Estimated unit cost (£)*
Tug	12.06
Winch	2.60

Armed Forces: Languages

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Farsi/Dari, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* Urdu, *(d)* Pashto, *(e)* Swahili, *(f)* Uyghur, *(g)* Uzbek *(h)* Tajik and *(i)* Kurdish speaking military personnel are serving in the British armed forces. [154261]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of presently serving military personnel known to have skills of at least standardized language profile (SLP) Level 1 in the specified languages are listed in the following table. The numbers are listed in two categories "tested" and "untested". Those included in the "tested" column have confirmed their skill in a military language examination within the last three years and their qualification is current. Those included in the "untested" column were either examined more than three years ago and their qualification has expired, or are known to have some level of skill which has not been confirmed by military language examination.

Language	*Tested*	*Untested*
Farsi	72	79
Dari	12	1
Arabic	304	1,393
Urdu	14	41
Pashto	90	5
Swahili	0	13

There are no records of any personnel having skills in Uyghur, Uzbek, Tajik or Kurdish.

The table does not include records for special forces personnel.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military personnel have received training in *(a)* Farsi/Dari, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* Urdu, *(d)* Pashto, *(e)* Swahili, *(f)* Uyghur, *(g)* Uzbek *(h)* Tajik and *(i)* Kurdish in each year since 1997. [154262]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables show the number of persons receiving training to at least standardized language profile (SLP) Level 1 in the languages for which information is requested. Despite extensive trawls, it is only possible to provide annual figures for Arabic. For the other languages, an aggregate figure for the entire period since 1997 has been collated.

	Arabic
1997	85
1998	99
1999	50
2000	37
2001	116
2002	73
2003	116
2004	127
2005	101
2006	122
2007	[1]233

[1] To date

	Other languages: 1997-2007[1]
Farsi	163
Dari	56
Urdu	41
Pashto	169
Swahili	5
Kurdish	2

[1] To date

No personnel have received any training in Uyghur, Uzbek or Tajik since 1997.

Over the 10 year period, training organisations and military language examination systems have evolved considerably. This may have led to loss of data for the earlier part of the period, with the result that totals for

each language are potentially understated. The figures quoted include special forces personnel.

Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour intervals are of the *(a)* infantry, *(b)* Royal Regiment of Artillery, *(c)* the Corps of the Royal Engineers, *(d)* the Royal Logistic Corps and *(e)* the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. [154251]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average unit tour interval for the infantry and the Royal Regiment of Artillery is 23.5 and 20.8 months, respectively. This is calculated on the basis of the mean time between the start of the most recent deployment and the end of the previous deployment for all formed units within each arm.

The unit tour interval is a less relevant measure when applied to the Corps of Royal Engineers, the Royal Logistic Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This is due to the frequency with which personnel move between formed units within these corps (which means that the personnel deployed with a unit will be substantially different from the personnel who deployed with the same unit on a previous occasion). Unit tour interval data for these corps is not therefore routinely collated.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion UK defence spending was of UK GDP in each financial year since 1997. [156187]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is published in HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis. The most recent version, CM7019 from April 2007 is available in the Library of the House and at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Defence: Inflation

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the defence inflation planning assumptions are for financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11. [156236]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In line with all Government Departments, the GDP deflator is used to estimate inflation. It is available on HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

As the GDP deflator is frequently updated, to simplify our internal planning process, inflation is currently rounded to 2.5 per cent.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms columns 1-8 of the subhead detail tables for his Department contained in the (i) main estimate, (ii) winter supplementary estimate and (iii) spring supplementary estimate for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08. [156002]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the right hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* planned (i) non-cash limit and (ii) near-cash resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL), *(b)* anticipated operating appropriations in aid, *(c)* planned capital DEL and *(d)* anticipated non-operating appropriations in aid are for each of his Department's top-level budget holders in each year of the comprehensive spending review; [156326]

(2) what the planned *(a)* non-cash and *(b)* near cash administration costs limit is for each of his Department's top-level budget holders in each year of the comprehensive spending review. [156329]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department is currently conducting a planning round to disaggregate the comprehensive spending review settlement; therefore this information is not currently available.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the near cash resource and capital departmental expenditure limits are for his Department in each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. [156327]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the Ministry of Defence's near-cash RDEL and CDEL over the CSR07 years.

£ million

	Near-cash resource DEL	*Capital DEL*
2008-09	22,869	7,871
2009-10	23,711	8,187
2010-11	24,434	8,871

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the financial year 2006-07 outturn for resources one, two and three provision for each subhead was broken down by *(a)* near cash departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* non-cash DEL, *(c)* capital DEL, *(d)* near cash annual managed expenditure, *(e)* non-cash annual managed expenditure, *(f)* capital annual managed expenditure, *(g)* near cash non-budget and *(h)* non-cash non-budget. [156328]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1888-93W.

EU Defence Policy

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to meet his counterparts in *(a)* France and *(b)* other European states regarding the establishment of an autonomous European military capability. [155834]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Secretary of State meets with the French Defence Minister as well as his other European Defence ministerial colleagues on a regular basis to discuss the European Security and Defence

Policy (ESDP). This includes at meetings of EU Defence Ministers such as that held by the EU presidency last week in Portugal where, collectively, Ministers met to take forward work on ESDP.

European Defence Agency: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the UK has contributed to the European Defence Agency in each year since 2004. [154240]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since the establishment of the European Defence Agency in July 2004, the UK has contributed:

	£
2004	1,056,536.14
2005	2,362,015.50
2006	2,093,545.88
2007	1,954,567.49

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects UK forces to leave Iraq completely. [156084]

Des Browne: As the Prime Minister announced on 8 October, the number of British forces based in southern Iraq will reduce to around 4,500 by the end of the year. Our forces continue to have important work to do helping the Iraqi security forces further develop the capacity and capability to take over responsibility for the security of their own people. We keep force levels under constant review and will continue to make reductions as and when conditions on the ground allow. It is therefore wrong to set an arbitrary date for British forces to leave Iraq.

Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urban warfare exercises have been conducted in each year since 2001. [154232]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested as all three services conduct urban warfare exercises at varying scales.

Land units are mandated to conduct urban training throughout the training cycle. However, urban training does not take place in isolation but is integrated into wider exercises. Training may involve low level activity focusing solely upon the urban environment or as part of wider collective training. The intensity of this urban training differs according to time and exercise area. By way of example, for the period September 2006 to September 2007[1], the Copehill Down Urban Training Village on Salisbury Plain was used for 296 days of urban training.

Both the RN and RAF also conduct urban warfare exercises but at a much smaller scale. Since 2001 the annual programme for Commando Training Centre Royal Marines has routinely included urban warfare exercises, specifically 22 for Recruit Training, five for the All Arms Commando Course and two for Young Officer Courses, making a total of 29 annually. For the RAF, 14 urban warfare exercises were conducted in each year in the period 2001-03, rising to 18 annually thereafter.

The individual training programme also includes urban training, though to varying degrees dependent upon the assessed need. By way of example, training at both the Infantry Battle School and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst routinely incorporates urban exercises as part of their courses.

Urban training is extensively practised within Pre Deployment Training for current operations, and incorporated into all unit training packages for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The exact emphasis upon urban operations is driven by the role of the unit concerned.

[1] Records for the amount of urban training across the entire Defence Estate are not held.

Navy: Bermuda

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy craft of what classes have been deployed in Bermuda's territorial waters to promote law enforcement and national security in the last two years; what the estimated number is of Royal Navy personnel deployed; and if he will make a statement. [155825]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the past two years four naval units have visited Bermuda: two ships were on Atlantic Patrol Task (North) and two were on routine transit visits. Although none of the ships went there with the specific purpose of promoting law enforcement, they bolstered national security by virtue of their presence.

The Royal Navy does not track vessels in and out of territorial waters. Details of actual port visits to Bermuda are as follows:

Ship	*Company*	*Visited*
HMS Cumberland	250	29 November to 2 December 2005
HMS Torbay	130	25 March to 30 March 2006
HMS Iron Duke	181	29 June to 3 July 2006
HMS Scott	62	21 May to 26 May 2007

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial contribution has been made by the Government of Bermuda towards the cost of the Royal Navy's deployment in Bermuda's territorial waters on the task of promoting law enforcement and national security in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [156335]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None. The Government of Bermuda does not pay for Royal Navy deployments in Bermuda's territorial waters. The security of UK Overseas Territories is the responsibility of the UK Government.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to provide the *(a)* Nimrod

and *(b)* Nimrod MRA4 with (i) armour and (ii) fuel tank protection before deployment in theatre; and if he will make a statement. [156605]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our aircraft are fitted with defensive systems and survivability aids to reflect the operational environment in which they are deployed. We keep the requirement for such systems under review for all our aircraft deployed on operations including the Nimrod MR2. This will continue to be the case for future aircraft, such as Nimrod MRA4. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

RAF Halton

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many powered take-offs took place at RAF Halton in each calendar year since 2003; how many were carried out by each unit in each year; and if he will make a statement. [155902]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The annual number of powered take-offs from RAF Halton is capped at 16,300 per year as a result of a decision made by the then Under-Secretary of State for Defence in 2004. This figure has never been exceeded.

The total number of powered take-offs from RAF Halton in 2003 was 14,143 and in 2004 was 13,293. A full breakdown by unit is not available for those years. The powered take-offs from RAF Halton for 2005 and 2006 broken down by unit are shown as follows:

Units	*2005*	*2006*
613 Volunteer Gliding Squadron (613 VGS)	5,378	4,291
Joint Services Gliding Centre (JSGC)	3,094	2,377
RAF Gliding and Soaring Association (RAF GSA)	430	575
Halton Aeroplane Club (HAC)	4,287	4,159
Halton Microlight Club (HMC)	2,408	2,180
Other	312	118
Annual total	15,909	13,700

St. Malo Agreement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress with achieving the objectives of the St. Malo Agreement. [155831]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 1998 St. Malo text from the summit between the UK and French Governments declares the intentions of the two countries to enable the European Union to play a full role on the international stage. It concentrates particularly on what is now known as European Security and Defence Policy, while recognising the need for ESDP to develop in a way which is both supportive of and supported by NATO's crisis management activities.

Since 1998 ESDP has developed considerably. It has enabled the EU to launch four peacekeeping operations: in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2003 and 2006); Macedonia (2003); and Bosnia (launched in December 2004), as well as numerous smaller civil-military operations. The current Bosnia operation took over from NATO's SFOR and has proven the efficacy of the Berlin Plus arrangements agreed in 2003 for EU access to NATO assets.

Other successes include the establishment of the European Defence Agency in 2004 to drive forward capability development and improve defence/industrial co-operation; the continuing development of a capacity for military and joint civil/military planning, based on agreed consultation arrangements with NATO; and the establishment of full operating capability for the rapid-response Battle Groups initiative, achieved in January 2007.

The Government are therefore fully satisfied with progress to date, and we will continue to play a leading role in further progress.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of legislation to deter violent action against research facilities that use animals in their testing; [154373]

(2) if she will review the effectiveness of the law on the use of blackmail in the context of the activities of protesters against research facilities that use animals in their testing; [154378]

(3) how many convictions there have been for criminal acts for which responsibility was claimed by the Animal Liberation Front; [154381]

(4) what discussions she has had with zoos and aquariums on security protection from animal rights extremists. [154380]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to eradicating the threat of animal rights extremism and has in place a robust interdepartmental strategy to achieve this. The strategy is centred on an improved law enforcement approach, with additional resources provided to the police to tackle animal rights extremism, a central police team set-up to drive forward police action nationally, and legislation enacted to protect animal research organisations. The strategy has been overseen by a Cabinet Committee which has been encouraged by the significant fall in illegal extremist activity, and the many significant convictions of animal rights extremists in the past 18 months, some for blackmail. A number of other animal rights extremists are awaiting trial and other major investigations remain ongoing.

While the Government respect, support and will protect the right to peaceful protest, we are equally clear that it is wholly unacceptable that a very small number of animal extremists should mount campaigns of fear and intimidation in an attempt to stop individuals and companies going about their lawful and legitimate business whether it is connected with animal research, farming or zoos and aquariums. The Government will continue to drive and review the strategy to eradicate the extremist threat.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to shut down the websites of the *(a)* Animal Liberation Front and *(b)* Animal Liberation Front Suppliers Group under the Terrorism Act 2006. [154374]

Mr. Coaker: The investigation and prosecution of offences under the Terrorism Act 2006 (including offences involving websites) are matters for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service respectively.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of anti-social behaviour were *(a)* recorded and *(b)* detected in each London borough in 2006-07. [153899]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Home Office does not collect this information centrally.

Border Police

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated cost of providing a unified border force is in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* each of the next five years. [156509]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* In his announcement of 25 July, the Prime Minister commissioned the Cabinet Secretary to report to him on the stages ahead in implementation of a unified border force and whether there is a case for going further while ensuring value for money. The Cabinet Secretary is due to report in October.

Breathalysers

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules apply to mobile police units on *(a)* carrying breathalyser kits and *(b)* the procedure to be followed in deciding to take citizens to the police station for breathalysing when kits are not carried; and if she will make a statement. [156639]

Mr. Coaker: Breath test devices currently available for use outside police stations are screening devices, used for a preliminary test to obtain an indication whether a person's alcohol level is likely to be above the prescribed limit. If a person tests positive, he can be arrested, taken to a police station and required to take an evidential test.

There is no statutory requirement on mobile police units to carry breath screening devices. Vehicles engaged in traffic law enforcement or responding to traffic incidents are however very likely to, and other vehicles may do. This is an operational equipment matter for the chief officer. If the vehicle does not have a screening device, one will normally be readily available and the person to be tested can be required to remain a reasonable length of time for it to arrive. Failure to co-operate with a preliminary test when the officer reasonably suspects there is alcohol in the person's body is an offence for which the person can be arrested.

In addition to the offence of driving while over the prescribed limit, there is a separate offence of driving whilst under the influence of drink. An officer can arrest for this offence and subsequently require an evidential test provided he has reasonable grounds for suspecting the offence and an arrest is necessary for its prompt and effective investigation.

Decisions as to arrest, etc are operational matters for the police on each occasion.

CCTV: Costs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* installing and *(b)* maintaining CCTV surveillance in London in each of the last five years, broken down by borough. [154815]

Mr. Coaker: No data on the costs of publicly-funded CCTV cameras operating on a local or on a national level are centrally held by the Home Office.

Previously, closed circuit television (CCTV) has been provided using a range of national and local funding streams. The principal fund has been the crime reduction programme from 1999 to 2003 which invested £170 million in CCTV schemes.

Currently, crime reduction funding is allocated directly to local authorities through the Safer Stronger Communities Fund. These funds finance a variety of interventions, including CCTV, to tackle local crime priorities.

Funding allocations are local decisions and are the responsibility of individual partnerships.

CCTV: London Boroughs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many publicly-funded CCTV cameras were installed in each London borough in each of the last five years. [154805]

Mr. Coaker: No data on the number of publicly-funded CCTV cameras operating on a local or on a national level are centrally held by the Home Office.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the *(a)* internet service providers, *(b)* social networking sites and *(c)* other IT companies which have adopted the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's report abuse mechanism. [155952]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

However, the Home Secretary's Task Force for Child Protection on the internet has set up a working group which includes representatives from social network providers, law enforcement and children's charities. This group is looking at the safety issues for children caused by the development and growth of social networking sites and is developing good practice guidelines.

Deportation: Enforcement

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long she expects to take to

consider the case of Mr. S.O. (Ref: O142114) who has applied for leave to remain under the 14-year concession but has been referred for enforcement action. [155778]

Mr. Byrne: Gill Mortlock, north west regional director for Border and Immigration Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 21 September 2007.

Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government have to commission research into the effect of changing the classification of illegal drugs on *(a)* levels of drugs misuse and *(b)* levels of drug-related harm. [154339]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have no plans at this time to commission any research into the effect of changing the classification of illegal drugs on levels of drug misuse and/or levels of drug-related harm. The Government undertake several surveys to monitor levels of drug misuse and drug-related harm but these are predicated on the ABC classification system.

Drugs: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of the Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership funding was allocated to Peterborough constituency in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [154763]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Department of Health, Home Office, Department for Children, Schools and Families (formerly the Department for Education and Skills), and the Youth Justice Board brought together substance misuse budgets for young people into one grant, the Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG) at a national level in 2004-05. This funding is made available in addition to mainstream funding streams.

The allocations made to Peterborough since 2004-05 are shown in the following table.

The change in levels of funding in 2007-08 against 2006-07 need to be placed in the context of record levels of investment over the last eight years. This year's allocation to Peterborough is over 30 per cent. greater than when YPSMPG allocations were introduced. Where there is a local need, the pooled treatment budget for drug treatment services can be used to provide additional funding for young people's treatment.

	Allocation (£)
2004-05	216,408
2005-06	303,323
2006-07	308,951
2007-08	284,440

Genetics: Databases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether DNA and fingerprints may be taken from individuals who are being asked to take a breathalyser test; [156525]

(2) whether individuals not subject to charges but who were subject to a breathalyser test are entitled to *(a)* decline when asked to submit to fingerprinting and the taking of DNA and *(b)* request that the DNA and fingerprints should be destroyed; [156641]

(3) what rules apply to the taking of fingerprints and DNA samples when individuals are asked to take a breathalyser test *(a)* at a police station and *(b)* in their vehicle; what differences there are between the rules in both cases; and if she will make a statement. [156653]

Mr. Coaker: The Road Traffic Act 1988 gives a constable power to require a driver to provide a breath specimen for a preliminary breath test. This is generally taken at the roadside. Under section 6D of the 1988 Act, the driver may be arrested if as a result of the test, the constable suspects that that his/her breath or blood alcohol level exceeds the prescribed limit or if for any reason the driver does not cooperate with the test and the constable suspects alcohol (or drugs) to be in the driver's body.

The purpose of this arrest is to enable a constable to require the driver to provide an evidential sample which, depending on the circumstances, may be breath, blood or urine, to be analysed to determine whether the driver may have committed a specific drink/driving offence under the Road Traffic Act.

The taking and retention of fingerprints and DNA for the purposes of investigating other offences and for identifying suspects are governed by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). Under PACE, fingerprints and DNA cannot be taken without consent unless the driver has been arrested for, or charged with, a specific recordable offence, for example, driving with excess alcohol or when unfit to drive through drink or drugs, failing without reasonable excuse to take a preliminary breath test or failing without reasonable excuse to provide an evidential specimen for analysis. Biometric data under PACE is taken at a police station.

Police may retain fingerprints and samples lawfully taken under PACE. It is a matter for the chief officer for each force area to determine whether or not samples or fingerprints should be retained.

Police Stations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations were operational in each police force area in 2006. [156310]

Jacqui Smith: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Firearms

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* accidental and *(b)* negligent discharges of firearms by police officers were reported to police forces in England and Wales in 2007. [155978]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally by the Home Office. However, police forces in England and Wales are encouraged to report any instances of accidental or negligent discharges of firearms by police officers to the Association of Chief Police Officers. The Association of Chief Police Officers aims to share lessons learned from these incidents with all forces to prevent them occurring again, and will consider changes to policy where appropriate at a national level.

Police: Fraud

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure the accountability of the City of London police force for its handling of business fraud cases; how many cases it successfully brought to prosecution in each of the last five years; and how many current cases it is dealing with. [154347]

Mr. Coaker: The Police Authority for the City of London Police is the Corporation of London's Court of Common Council. However, decisions on individual cases are operational matters and solely the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police for the City of London.

Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty for Fraud and Forgery offences in the City of London police force area from 2001 to 2005 is shown in the table. The Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is unable to separate business fraud cases from other types of fraud and forgery.

I understand from the City of London Police that their Economic Crime Department, which has lead force status for the south east and which investigates all types of economic crime, has an average active caseload of around 300 investigations.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for Fraud and Forgery offences, in the City of London police force area, 2001 to 2005[1,2]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2001	184	90
2002	210	89
2003	324	104
2004	244	131
2005	198	107

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice

Police: Scotland

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions are being conducted with the Scottish Executive on the impact on, and changes necessary to, its police forces and law enforcement arrangements consequent on the Government's proposal to create a new police or border force working in the United Kingdom's ports of entry; and if she will make a statement. [155807]

Mr. Byrne: The Scottish Executive has discussed with the Cabinet Secretary's border review team potential implications for Scotland of the introduction of a unified border force, including potential implications for police and law enforcement arrangements.

Prisoners: Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research the Government have *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed into the cost-effectiveness of imprisoning dependent drug users for non-violent offences. [154332]

Mr. Coaker: There has been no Home Office or Ministry of Justice research commissioned specifically to look directly at the cost-effectiveness of imprisoning dependent drug users for non-violent offences. However, there is currently an extensive programme of research planned for the forthcoming year that will evaluate the impact of specific CJS/NOMS interventions on re-offending and what value for money they offer. The output from this research will help shape priorities across the CJS in terms of where resources are likely to be most effectively targeted for protecting the public and reducing re-offending.

In addition, findings from a new study of drug treatment in the community (DTORS) will be published later in 2007. This study includes dependent users in treatment who have been referred via both CJS and non-CJS routes. Information on drug treatment in the community can provide valuable lessons to be learnt for treating dependent drug users in prison and the cost effectiveness of such treatment.

Finally, I refer the hon. Member to 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2315W, in which the former Home Office Minister—my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe)—outlined the programme of research in place to evaluate CJS/NOMS interventions on re-offending; and 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1319W, in which the Home Secretary outlined some of the many measures in place to address drug-related crime.

Robbery: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* robberies and *(b)* burglaries were reported in each London constituency in each of the last five years; and how many of these resulted in convictions. [154817]

Mr. Coaker: Data at specific constituency level are not available. The numbers of robbery and burglary offences recorded by the police, from 2002-03 to 2006-07, for each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in London are given in the following tables.

The following tables show the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for burglary and robbery in Greater London for the years 2001 to 2005, and is taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Data for 2006 will be available in November this year.

Caution must be taken in comparing recorded crime statistics with convictions statistics as these are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data is provided on a financial year basis and counts offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Robbery offences recorded in each London Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

CDRP	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
City of London	45	50	42	39	41
Barking and Dagenham	686	802	739	775	805
Barnet	1,059	1,082	1,211	1,226	1,063
Bexley	339	388	402	473	448
Brent	1,795	1,807	2,084	2,355	2,144
Bromley	702	863	729	901	1,115
Camden	1,765	1,334	1,315	1,260	1,597
City of Westminster	1,752	1,437	1,505	1,577	1,756
Croydon	1,888	1,771	1,496	1,845	1,829
Ealing	1,823	1,473	1,565	2,012	2,359
Enfield	1,072	1,211	1,143	1,454	1,507
Greenwich	693	1,083	1,172	1,229	1,479
Hackney	2,466	2,441	1,926	1,856	1,685
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,271	1,146	1,386	1,285	1,172
Haringey	2,166	1,903	1,430	2,024	1,946
Harrow	613	624	699	862	769
Havering	479	512	442	459	549
Hillingdon	588	512	593	876	974
Hounslow	954	820	712	841	869
Islington	1,664	1,397	1,244	1,412	1,488
Kensington and Chelsea	673	794	792	906	787
Kingston upon Thames	305	292	257	337	302
Lambeth	4,017	3,298	3,021	2,998	2,911
Lewisham	1,627	1,924	1,783	2,304	2,635
Merton	684	584	459	625	598
Newham	2,150	2,242	1,939	2,501	2,520
Redbridge	1,096	1,188	1,241	1,329	1,353
Richmond upon Thames	291	257	376	455	408
Southwark	2,220	2,295	2,406	2,981	2,695
Sutton	276	354	231	411	413
Tower Hamlets	1,790	1,568	1,457	1,675	1,908
Waltham Forest	1,791	1,655	1,796	2,392	1,954
Wandsworth	1,788	1,574	1,475	1,668	1,724
Total London Area	42,528	40,681	39,068	45,343	45,803

Table 2: Burglary offences recorded in each London Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

CDRP	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
City of London	444	454	501	366	402
Barking and Dagenham	2,012	2,240	2,175	1,921	2,117
Barnet	4,039	3,978	4,045	4,363	3,904
Bexley	2,341	2,226	1,986	2,366	2,076
Brent	3,859	4,062	3,987	3,904	3,330
Bromley	3,596	3,472	3,776	3,926	3,588
Camden	5,884	4,843	4,171	4,108	4,322

Table 2: Burglary offences recorded in each London Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

CDRP	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
City of Westminster	5,264	4,296	4,497	4,158	3,801
Croydon	4,115	3,769	3,230	3,582	3,464
Ealing	4,543	4,375	4,350	4,999	3,957
Enfield	4,301	3,865	3,528	3,844	3,638
Greenwich	2,986	3,080	2,970	3,209	3,241
Hackney	4,807	4,327	3,897	3,547	2,687
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,089	2,827	3,023	3,052	2,732
Haringey	4,356	4,115	4,084	3,841	3,559
Harrow	2,736	2,626	2,178	2,446	1,959
Havering	2,386	2,161	2,315	2,453	2,511
Hillingdon	3,569	3,183	3,143	3,137	3,182
Hounslow	3,374	3,450	2,969	2,982	2,594
Islington	4,429	3,957	3,681	3,683	3,728
Kensington and Chelsea	2,512	2,576	2,580	2,444	2,182
Kingston upon Thames	985	939	984	1,188	1,038
Lambeth	5,694	4,980	4,150	3,884	3,685
Lewisham	3,708	3,837	3,778	3,524	3,579
Merton	1,930	2,034	1,764	1,796	1,828
Newham	3,494	3,398	3,410	4,112	3,371
Redbridge	2,974	2,990	3,058	3,282	3,053
Richmond upon Thames	2,120	1,787	2,017	2,395	2,085
Southwark	4,885	4,556	4,411	4,143	4,087
Sutton	1,446	1,397	1,429	1,480	1,451
Tower Hamlets	3,567	3,023	3,070	3,467	2,890
Waltham Forest	3,812	3,284	3,144	3,131	3,116
Wandsworth	4,547	3,664	3,616	3,108	3,943
Total London Area	113,804	105,771	101,917	103,841	97,100

Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for Burglary and Robbery, Greater London, 2001-05[1,2]

Police force area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Burglary					
City of London	35	25	25	20	29
Metropolitan Police	2,977	3,339	3,207	3,075	3,031
Greater London	3,012	3,364	3,232	3,095	3,060
Robbery					
City of London	9	1	3	8	2
Metropolitan Police	1,767	1,936	1,835	2,024	1,953
Greater London	1,776	1,937	1,838	2,032	1,955

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Security Industry Authority: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many enforcement offices of the Security Industry Authority are operational in the force area of North Wales Police. [155962]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) does not have regional offices. The SIA has an intelligence team and a network of 41 investigators across England, Wales and Scotland. SIA investigation teams cover specific areas throughout England, Wales and Scotland and the structure of the SIA investigation teams allows resources to be directed to that area as required.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many convictions under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 for working in a licensable role without a Security Industry Agency licence were obtained against individuals resident in the force area of North Wales police in each of the last three years; [155963]

(2) how many convictions under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 for supplying unlicensed security staff were obtained against individuals resident in the force area of North Wales police in each of the last three years. [155964]

Mr. Coaker: In 2004 and 2005, there were no convictions under sections 3 and 5 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 at any courts in the North Wales police force area either for working in a licensable role without a Security Industry Agency licence or for supplying unlicensed security staff.

The data for 2006 will be available in November 2007. (The statistics collected are broken down into locations where convictions were secured and not the addresses of individuals resident in the force area.)

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* front line and *(b)* non-front line licences granted under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 are held by individuals resident in the force area of North Wales Police. [155965]

Mr. Coaker: As of 1 October 2007, 236,129 front line licences and 5,677 non-front line licences have been granted in total across England, Wales and Scotland.

The statistics collected by the SIA are broken down into licensable sectors, not geographical areas.

Tesco: Extortion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from Tesco supermarket on threatening letters received from animal rights activists; and if she will make a statement. [154379]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has received no representations from Tesco supermarket on threatening letters received from animal rights activists. However, the Government are committed to working in close co-operation with law enforcement agencies and any targets of animal rights extremism to eradicate the threat of extremists, building on the significant fall in illegal extremist activity, and the many significant convictions of animal rights extremists in the past 18 months.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Centre of Excellence for Charitable Giving

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the winners of the contract to host the Centre of Excellence for Charitable Giving will also be able to bid for research work commissioned by the Centre. [155631]

Phil Hope: The Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy is being commissioned on the basis of a published specification that identified key research areas.

A small proportion of the overall budget is currently uncommitted and has been set aside by the funders to support the commissioning of further research over the course of the centre.

It will be open to centre staff and others to bid for currently uncommitted funds, and to any additional funds secured to support appropriate further research projects.

Appropriate governance arrangements will be made to ensure that decisions on any further research supported by existing uncommitted funds, and by any additional funds secured, will be based on proposals' scientific excellence, in line with ESRC practice.

Charitable Donations

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what target the Government has set to increase charitable donations in real terms over the 10 year period to 2014; and what steps the Government is taking to monitor and report on progress towards meeting this target. [155630]

Phil Hope: A Generous Society, the Government's charitable giving strategy, was published in November 2005, and sets out our plans for working in partnership with the third sector to foster a deeper culture of planned, regular and tax-efficient giving. The Citizenship Survey will be used to determine the impact of the measures adopted.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department bought for the use of new departmental Ministers in the Cabinet Office following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156742]

Gillian Merron: The information is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156614]

Edward Miliband: A list of the non-departmental public bodies and agencies sponsored by the Cabinet Office can be found in the Cabinet Office departmental reports which are available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members. They are also available from the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about_the_cabinet_office/reports.asp

Gift Aid

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps were taken by the Office of the Third Sector to inform the voluntary sector and the general public about the reduction in the rate of gift aid that resulted from the change in income tax rates in the last Budget; and when those steps were taken. [155629]

Phil Hope: The then Chancellor and the Minister for the third sector discussed the need to further build on the increase in the amount of money directly benefiting third sector organisations, which has increased from £135 million in 1996-97 to £750 million for 2005-06. Measures to increase take-up of Gift Aid and ensure greater awareness of how to give in a tax-efficient way have been widely consulted on this year, ahead of any changes coming into effect on income tax levels. Findings from the consultation will be made available in due course.

Information Officers: Charity Commission

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many press officers are employed by the Charity Commission. [154419]

Phil Hope: The Charity Commission employs six staff with press office responsibilities.

Information Officers: Independent Complaints Reviewer to the Charity Commission

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many press officers are employed by the Independent Complaints Reviewer to the Charity Commission. [154461]

Phil Hope: The Independent Complaints Reviewer to the Charity Commission does not employ any press officers.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Political Powers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people are members of quangos in England and Wales; and what the total cost of quangos in England and Wales was in each of the last 10 years; [152930]

(2) what assessments are made of the political party memberships of individuals appointed to quangos and commissions in England and Wales; what reforms are planned; and if he will make a statement; [152931]

(3) which public bodies are required to report to Parliament; [152932]

(4) how many and what percentage of the *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid appointments made to non-departmental public bodies since 1 May 1997 were (i) members and (ii) declared supporters of the Labour Party. [152933]

Edward Miliband: Information on membership and expenditure of public bodies is published annually by the Cabinet Office. Figures covering the period 1997 to 2006 are available on the civil service website (www.civilservice.gov.uk). Departments are in the process of publishing information for 2006-07 and a summary will be published by the Cabinet Office when publication by Departments is completed.

Information on the political activity of those appointed to the boards of public bodies is collected by the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments and published in her annual report. The Commissioner's annual report for 2006-07 was published on 8 October 2007. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 363W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, whether the role of KPMG changed once they stopped providing advice to her Department and started advising the Olympic Delivery Authority in July 2006. [154086]

Tessa Jowell: Yes. KPMG were contracted to provide advice to the Department on the development of the Olympic budget until July 2006. Following this, KPMG were contracted by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to provide the ODA with ongoing advice on their cost estimates. KPMG have continued in this role.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 363W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, what documents KPMG provided to her Department when they stopped providing it with advice on the cost of the Olympics in July 2006. [154089]

Tessa Jowell: Other than an invoice for their work up until July 2006, our records show that KPMG did not provide the Department with any further documents.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, how the cost review continued its work after 25 April; [154100]

(2) on what areas of the Olympics budget the cost review continued to work after 25 April. [154101]

Tessa Jowell: After 25 April 2006, the cost review continued its work by analysing and validating the cost estimates and risks underpinning all aspects of the cost package that was subsequently announced to the House on 15 March 2007. This included: Olympic Park and venues; Olympic infrastructure and regeneration; and security.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, which *(a)* ministerial and *(b)* official groups have taken forward the work of the Cost Review Group since 25 April. [154102]

Tessa Jowell: I, and departmental officials, held a number of bilateral meetings with key stakeholders to take forward the cost review work from 25 April 2006 until my statement of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450. No specific ministerial group or official groups were required.

Following my announcement of 15 March 2007, Ministers have established a Funders Group, supported by officials, to continually assess the Olympic budget and agree any further calls on the contingency provision.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what her policy is on the use of the Red Arrows RAF flying team during the 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement; [155620]

(2) if she will make a statement on the involvement of the Red Arrows in the Olympic ceremonies in 2012. [156006]

Tessa Jowell: Newspaper claims that the Government have banned or advised against the Red Arrows' involvement in the opening ceremony or any other celebrations associated with the 2012 Games are completely untrue and unfounded.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for deciding what to include in the opening ceremony and other celebrations, and no decisions have yet been taken about the content. The Red Arrows have already played a memorable role in the celebrations, when they flew over Trafalgar Square to mark London winning the Games.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate *(a)* the number and *(b)* average value of payments made by the Rural Payments Agency in respect of the Common Agricultural Policy in excess of (i) £150,000, (ii) £200,000, (iii) £250,000 and (iv) 300,000; and if he will make a statement. [154770]

Jonathan Shaw: A breakdown of individual CAP payments exceeding £150,000 made to customers over the 2006-07 exchequer year is reflected in the table.

The table includes payments made for expenditure both fully and partly funded by the EC.

This table is based on analysis of all individual payments to customers exceeding £150,000 over the period 1 April 2006 through to 31 March 2007.

Value of payment	*Number of payments*	*Average value of payments (£)*
Over £150,000	1,647	252,826.81
Over £200,000	801	338,504.48
Over £250,000	457	425,872.31
Over £300,000	295	508,639.72

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much has been paid in agricultural subsidies in Bassetlaw constituency in each year since 2005; [155600]

(2) how many farmers have been paid agricultural subsidies in Bassetlaw constituency in each of the last 10 years. [155601]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not currently available, but I have asked officials to collate the data. I will write to the hon. Member with the information in due course and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Animals: Disease Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess whether there is any continuing risk to the farming industry from a failure of bio-security at the *(a)* Compton and *(b)* Pirbright sites of the Institute for Animal Health. [155777]

Jonathan Shaw: All the recommendations in the reports by the Health and Safety Executive and Professor Spratt applying to the Government, the Institute of Animal Health and Merial have been accepted, and already have been, or are being, implemented. In addition, as set out in the Government Statement of 7 September 2007 in response to these investigations, we have taken action that goes beyond these recommendations. These measures ensure the highest level of bio-security at Pirbright and at other laboratories working with specified animal pathogens.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which viruses dangerous to animal or human health have been subject to experimentation at the *(a)* Pirbright and *(b)* Compton sites of the Institute for Animal Health. [155786]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA, as licensor and regulator under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998 have issued the Institute for Animal Health with licences for both the Pirbright and Compton sites to hold category 3 and 4 viruses under that Order. Among the viruses covered by the Order are: bluetongue, African horse sickness, foot and mouth disease, African swine fever, avian influenza, avian oncogenic viruses, coronaviruses and morbiliviruses. It is not possible, for reasons of commercial confidentiality, to give details of specific viruses that have been subject to experimentation.

Birds: Malta

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his Maltese counterpart on reducing the shooting of turtle doves and quails during spring 2008 in that country. [156490]

Joan Ruddock: No such discussions have taken place.

Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the "Birds Directive") lays down rules for the protection, management and control of all wild birds. Member states are required to introduce legislation in line with the birds directive's requirements and ensure it is applied effectively.

The hunting of turtle dove and quail in Malta is permitted under the birds directive. However, during periods of reproduction or during their return to rearing grounds, hunting may only be permitted under derogation and if the strict conditions under Article 9 of the birds directive are met. This is a matter for the Maltese authorities to determine.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155891]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's central spend on campaigns and marketing through the Communications Directorate and the Citizen and Public Engagement Programme is £7,160,000. Within this, the projected spend on advertising and promotional activity is as follows:

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*
Television	1,670,300	—
Radio	45,000	—
Print media	760,500	—

The projected spend for 2008-09 has not yet been created.

The Department does not maintain central records of other communications expenditure outside of the Communications Directorate.

Environment Agency: Manpower

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff were working for the Environment Agency in Peterborough in each year since 1997. [154073]

Mr. Woolas: A breakdown of Environment Agency staff based in Peterborough from 2000 to the present day is provided in the following table.

Details of staff numbers in earlier years is not available due to limited reporting functions prior to 2000.

	Staff
2000	272
2001	268
2002	354
2003	368
2004	453
2005	478
2006	504
2007	498

Staff are based at Kingfisher house and Aqua house, Peterborough.

Farms: Mushrooms

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many visits Ministers have made to mushroom farms since 1991. [156536]

Jonathan Shaw: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions there have been of mushroom farms under the Environment Protection Act 1990. [156537]

Jonathan Shaw: I am not aware of any such prosecutions having been undertaken since DEFRA began collecting data on prosecutions in 2001-02.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many mushroom farms there are in England. [156538]

Jonathan Shaw: According to the June Survey of Agriculture, the number of registered holdings in England specialising in mushroom production at June 2006 was 43. These are holdings where mushroom growing is the predominant activity. Estimates are based on a sample survey and are, therefore, subject to a degree of sampling error.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the cost benefit analysis system for allocating funds to flood risk areas. [156540]

Mr. Woolas: Economic analysis is undertaken as part of project appraisal. It provides an aid to determining the most appropriate solution to a problem, to ensure that the funds secured from general taxation are invested for the benefit of the nation as a whole. It is an effective tool for comparing the impacts of flooding with the costs of reducing risk. Social, health and environmental impacts can often be valued and included in the analysis where they are significant.

Following public consultation, a set of outcome measures has been developed to provide greater clarity on what policies and funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management are intended to achieve. One of the agreed measures will show the overall benefits of flood and coastal erosion risk management activities in

monetary terms. The measures will be used to set targets progressively during the period covered by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, starting with the capital programme in 2008-09.

Flood Control: Agriculture

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with farmers regarding managing land use for flood prevention in flood risk areas. [156542]

Mr. Woolas: As part of DEFRA's 'Making Space for Water' strategy, there are two projects investigating the role that rural land use and land management can play in managing flood risk at the farm and catchment scale. These projects are Catchment Scale Land—Use Management (HA6) and Land Management Practices (HA7). In the development of these projects, the Environment Agency has been working with the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association.

At a local level, the Environment Agency is developing Catchment Flood Management Plans, which consider the role of land use, in consultation with all interested parties.

Floods

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what total funds were available for flood recovery across all Government Departments for *(a)* the county of Gloucestershire, *(b)* the borough of Tewkesbury, *(c)* the city of Gloucester and *(d)* the Cotswolds district. [155859]

Mr. Woolas: To date, the Government have made available a significant package of £57 million to support areas affected by the flooding of June and July 2007. The county of Gloucestershire was allocated £2,623,000 of flood recovery grant, which includes £623,500 for the borough of Tewkesbury, £646,500 for the city of Gloucester and £623,500 for the Cotswold district council. Gloucestershire county council was allocated £1,007,900 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. None of the other local authorities within Gloucestershire provide education or children's services and thus were not eligible for this funding.

The Department for Transport has written to Gloucestershire saying that they will be allocated at least £10 million for highways works and there are ongoing discussions about further funding.

The Regional Development Agency with responsibility for Gloucestershire announced a £2 million flood recovery package for the region. Eligible businesses are able to claim up to a maximum of £2,500. As at 4 October 2007, 455 grant offers had been made, totalling £1,030,000 and 239 of these offers have been claimed, totalling £526,000 paid out by the Regional Development Agency.

This is additional money to that available under the Bellwin scheme. The scheme provides emergency financial assistance from the Government to local authorities, to help meet the uninsurable costs of immediate action to safeguard life or property or prevent severe inconvenience to inhabitants in the case of an emergency or disaster. In recognition of the exceptional nature of the recent flooding, special arrangements apply for these schemes. We have significantly extended the period for which the affected authorities can claim for eligible costs and increased the proportion of costs they can receive to 100 per cent. above the threshold.

Floods: Landfill Tax

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the increase in landfill tax in Hull, following recent flooding in the area and the need to dispose of damaged items; and if he will make a statement. [156543]

Joan Ruddock: Landfill tax provides an important incentive for local authorities to achieve more sustainable waste management.

Hull has estimated that a relatively small increase in municipal waste arisings will occur, because of the flooding. This is within the normal range of variations in annual waste arisings. It should not have a long-term or significant impact on waste management costs.

DEFRA has not assessed specifically the increase in landfill tax in Hull following the flooding in the area.

Foot and Mouth Disease: New Forest

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency plans exist to deal with an outbreak of foot and mouth disease amongst commoners' stock in the New Forest; and if he will make a statement. [156384]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's contingency plan for exotic animal diseases is in three parts:

i. Information on specific animal diseases. This is available on the DEFRA website and ensures that those interested always have access to up to date information.

ii. Emergency preparedness. This provides details of how DEFRA has prepared for an outbreak, including some information on the diseases and what action the Department has taken to be ready.

iii. Framework Response plan. This is an operational manual for those involved in managing handling an outbreak and, whilst it is in the public domain, it is primarily for officials who have responsibility in an outbreak.

The plan is reviewed annually in accordance with the requirements of the Animal Health Act 2002. The current version of the plan was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2006. The plan (together with the additional bluetongue contingency plan) is being used in the current outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue.

DEFRA encourages owners or keepers of stock kept on common land, such as the New Forest, to undertake enhanced surveillance for signs of disease amongst their animals. If they have any concerns they should be reported to their local animal health office.

Landfill

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to allocate increased landfill allowance trading scheme targets to local authorities which are in sustainable communities growth plan areas. [153966]

Joan Ruddock: Under the landfill allowances trading scheme (LATS), allowances have been determined for waste disposal authorities (WDAs) each year from 2004-05 to 2019-20 to provide local authorities with greater certainty for long-term planning. The total number of allowances is limited to ensure that England can meet its share of the European Landfill Directive targets for biodegradable municipal waste. It is not possible to increase the allowances available to individual WDAs without breaching the national targets or reducing the allowances available to other local authorities.

LATS provides flexibility to help local authorities cope with increasing populations through trading, banking and borrowing of allowances. This is intended to give all WDAs every opportunity to avoid becoming liable to a financial penalty for failure to comply with LATS obligations.

Landfill: Recycling

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to investigate the capture and use of gas produced from landfill for *(a)* use as a fuel and *(b)* electricity generation. [156039]

Joan Ruddock: There are currently 324 landfill sites in the UK that utilise methane to generate electricity. The technology for this is well established, with the first site in the UK to generate electricity from landfill gas starting to operate in the 1980s.

The production of electricity from landfill gas is incentivised through the Renewables Obligation (RO), which places an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers to source a proportion of electricity from renewable sources.

Packaging: Recycling

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial incentives there are for small to medium sized firms to recycle *(a)* materials and *(b)* packaging. [156552]

Joan Ruddock: The Landfill Tax acts as a financial incentive for all businesses, not just small to medium sized firms, to encourage recycling of materials. The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme (funded from Landfill Tax) allows businesses to receive free and independent support and advice to help them increase their profitability by sending less waste to landfill and recycling more.

There are no specific financial incentives for small to medium sized companies to recycle packaging. However, the Packaging Regulations do provide an incentive for businesses to reduce and minimise the amount of packaging used. This is because they are obliged to recover and recycle a specified amount of packaging waste; determined, in part, by the amount of packaging they handle. A producer using less packaging, can reduce the costs incurred under these regulations.

Pirbright Laboratory: Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether *(a)* Mr. John Manser and *(b)* any other officials responsible for inspecting, regulating and licensing the Institute for Animal Health site and the Merial site at Pirbright were made aware of the issues raised in the letter from the Merial site director of 20 July 2004; [155667]

(2) whether any Minister in his Department was made aware following the letter to the Department from the Merial site director of 20 July 2004 of the need to renew the old effluent drain between the restricted area of Merial and the Institute of Animal Health effluent treatment plant. [155668]

Jonathan Shaw: Officials, but not Ministers, were made aware of the issues raised in the letter from the Merial site director of 20 July 2004. The letter sought DEFRA's views, as licensor and regulator under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order 1998, on the proposed specification of the replacement pipe. No questions over the integrity of the pipe in relation to requirements under that Order were raised in the letter, previously or subsequently, until the DEFRA-commissioned Health and Safety Executive inspection in August this year.

Plastics: Recycling

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government has made of the volume of plastic recycled in the United Kingdom compared to the volume shipped abroad. [156550]

Joan Ruddock: Most material collected in the UK for recycling is processed in this country.

The total amount of plastic waste arising in the UK is estimated at 5.9 million tonnes a year. The Environment Agency estimates that the level of plastic exports by 2006 would have reached 440,000 tonnes a year. Figures on the amount of plastic recycled in the UK are not held centrally.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions have been held with the plastics industry to ensure that the range of polymers and products does not create obstacles to recycling. [156551]

Joan Ruddock: No formal discussions have been held.

Government cannot oblige producers to use specific materials in their packaging or products. In reality all polymers are recyclable, although in some instances it is not currently economic to do so. The Government are making it easier for local authorities to plan for, and put in place, the waste infrastructure that is needed on the ground in order to re-process more recyclable materials.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government have made of incentives which could be adopted to encourage local authorities to promote kerbside and other methods of plastic recycling. [156553]

Joan Ruddock: Additional funding for local authorities, including through the private finance initiative, has led to a major increase in kerbside recycling facilities. The Government's Waste Strategy for England 2007 set a new national target for reducing the amount of household wastes not reused, recycled or composted, and increased national targets for the percentage of household waste recycled and composted. It also set a target for the amount of municipal waste recovered.

Technical advice on the collection of plastics for recycling is available for local authorities from the Waste Resources Action programme (WRAP).

Radioactive Wastes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to meet with representatives of English, Scottish or Welsh local authorities to discuss the disposal of radioactive waste; and if he will make a statement. [156450]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: I spoke at the Local Government Association conference 'The long-term management of radioactive wastes—the role of Local Government' on 6 September 2007. There are also regular meetings between DEFRA and the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF), the special interest group of the Local Government Association, to discuss radioactive waste issues.

The Government are consulting publicly on a framework for implementing the geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste. In launching the consultation document on 25 June 2007, DEFRA Ministers wrote to all local authorities in England and Wales to inform those who may have an interest in responding.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councillors: Planning

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to implement the proposals set out in its recent report on Councillor Involvement in Planning Decisions in respect of biological treatment infrastructure. [154152]

Yvette Cooper: Since the report did not recommend changes to the procedure for considering planning applications, but rather pointed to existing good practice, we do not propose to take any further implementation action.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on hospitality in each of the last five years. [156423]

Mr. Iain Wright: For 2006-07 spending on hospitality by Communities and Local Government, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 120-21W. In our predecessor department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, spending on hospitality was £38,803 in 2003-04, £42,126 in 2004-05 and £54,932 in 2005-06. Recorded hospitality expenditure is higher in 2006-07 than in previous years, due to coding parameter changes on the Department's financial system, which means that some catering expenditure is also included.

Departments: Training

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Deprtment's expenditure was on away days located outside her Department's buildings in the last year for which figures are available. [155698]

Mr. Iain Wright: Expenditure related to staff away days is not identified as a separate item on the Department's accounting system, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, any such expenditure could reasonably be expected within the expenditure total for conferences. The total expenditure on conferences for Ministers and civil servants incurred by Communities and Local Government in the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007 was £498,273.

All expenditure on conferences is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 164W, on Home Information Packs, if she will place in the Library a copy of written representations made by *(a)* Rightmove and *(b)* Countrywide in relation to home information packs. [152536]

Yvette Cooper: Responses to public consultations from the Countrywide Assured Group plc. on the content of the home information pack and the home information pack in low demand low value areas have been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 160W, on home information packs, how many voluntary home condition reports have been purchased. [152671]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 160W.

Full results of the trials that include completed transactions will be published when available.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* subsidised and *(b)* non-subsidised energy performance certificates have been purchased; [152846]

(2) how many *(a)* subsidised and *(b)* non-subsidised voluntary home condition reports have been purchased. [152847]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 160W.

The register of home condition reports and energy performance certificates does not include details on the price paid for a report.

Full results of the trials that include completed transactions will be published when completed.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the sale of a freehold interest of a leasehold residential property requires *(a)* an energy performance certificate and *(b)* a home information pack. [153696]

Yvette Cooper: A home information pack, including an energy performance certificate, may be required where a residential property consisting of a single dwelling is marketed for sale with vacant possession, either freehold or under a long lease.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether buyers selling their homes through a property location agent are required to commission a home information pack; and if she will make a statement. [155414]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1273W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the legal definition is of a bedroom for the purposes of the Home Information Pack provisions. [155715]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 161W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if a room described as a *(a)* study, *(b)* spare room and *(c)* HIP replacement room would be classed as a bedroom for the purposes of the requirements for three or four bedroom homes to have a home information pack. [156602]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 161W.

Home Information Packs: Appeals

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures are in place for a home owner to appeal against the information and grading provided in an energy performance certificate; what the estimated average cost of such a procedure is; and whether the register of energy performance certificates may be amended. [156601]

Yvette Cooper: All accreditation schemes are required to have redress procedures which are free to the consumer. Schemes have a duty to ensure assessment standards are high and that any appeals are dealt with in a fair, swift and effective manner. If an EPC was found to be inaccurate a new one would be reissued and lodged in the register.

Home Information Packs: Enforcement

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received from the Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors on the enforceability of home information pack regulations; what response she has made; and how she plans to enforce the regulations. [154076]

Yvette Cooper: We have had a number of discussions with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in the last 12 months on all aspects of home information packs. Section 166 of the Housing Act 2004 places a duty on local trading standards authorities to enforce the home information pack duties in their areas.

Home Information Packs: Fines

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's estimate is of the number of fines to be issued each year against *(a)* home owners and *(b)* estate agents for breaches of the home information pack provisions. [154077]

Yvette Cooper: No such estimate has been made. Local trading standards authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the home information pack duties in their areas.

Home Information Packs: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings representatives of her Department have had with *(a)* Flint Bishop solicitors and *(b)* Labour Legal Services in the last 12 months; and what representations her Department has received from each organisation in relation to home information packs in that period. [155935]

Yvette Cooper: Our records show that the Department for Communities and Local Government has had no meetings with or representations from Flint

Bishop solicitors or Labour Legal Services in the last 12 months on home information packs.

Home Information Packs: Liability

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has produced on the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum liability to be paid out on an insurance policy underwriting the accuracy and completeness of a personal search, in a Home Information Pack, not provided by a solicitor. [155856]

Yvette Cooper: The HIPs (No. 2) Regulations 2007 introduce, for the first time, stringent requirements for all those compiling property searches, including requirements on insurance cover for third parties and liability in the event of financial loss.

The Procedural Guidance which supports the HIPs (No. 2) Regulations 2007 sets out that all those compiling property searches must have suitable insurance arrangements in place with an insurer authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Housing: Energy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the XML Schema for the proposed register of energy performance certificates. [155709]

Yvette Cooper: The XML Schema for the Register of Energy Performance Certificates forms part of the Certification Scheme and Accreditation Scheme Technical Standards and is publicly available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/151075

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with other ministerial colleagues on the provision of policy guidance for the needs of existing homes for energy improvement in any forthcoming policy papers; and if she will make a statement. [155744]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have a wide ranging programme to encourage energy efficiency in existing homes, through policies and programmes run by this Department, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. In line with appropriate practice, any policy guidance issued on energy efficiency matters will be considered collectively. Most recently, for example, Ministers from CLG, DEFRA and BERR jointly issued the Energy Measures report, guidance to local authorities which, amongst other matters, covered how local authorities can promote energy efficiency in their areas.

Housing: Floods

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps her Department is taking to encourage developers to use water resilient flooring and fittings in houses built in areas with a high risk of flooding; [156835]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to support the development of raised level flooring to counter the effects of flooding. [156836]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 15 May Communities and Local Government published a technical guide, "Improving the Flood Resilient Performance of New Buildings—Flood resilient construction." This guide provides information on how homes can be constructed so that, if they are flooded, it should be easier to clean and repair them and enable early reoccupation. This guide includes information on flood resilient flooring, threshold and floor levels. The Department will consider the options for further action in relation to the flood performance of buildings in the light of Sir Michael Pitts' inquiry into the effects of the summer floods.

Meanwhile all development is subject to Planning Policy Statement 25, "Development and Flood Risk (PPS25)" which aims to locate development away from flood risk whenever possible. In those areas where virtually all land is within high flood risk areas and there are few, if any, low risk sites for development, PPS25 imposes new requirements for resilience that ensure that buildings in higher risk areas are safe and less susceptible to flood damage.

The mitigation process described in PPS25 includes the use of resilient or resistant construction. With regard to raising floor levels, while this can assist, it is not without adverse consequences: raised floors can make access and egress more difficult, especially for older people or the infirm; placing buildings on mounds can displace flood water, causing problems elsewhere; raising buildings can create a void under the building where flood water accumulates, bringing problems of removing flood water and contaminants after the flood subsides.

Housing: Inspections

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations her Department has received on compensation payments for home inspectors and energy inspectors. [152421]

Yvette Cooper: As part of the regular correspondence from stakeholders, the Department has received some representations on the issue of compensation.

Local Authorities: Equal Pay

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial provision has been made for local authorities which are conducting pay and grading reviews in order to comply with the Equal Pay Act 1974. [156020]

John Healey: Under the Equal Pay Act 1970, an employer must provide equal pay for the same work or work which is considered objectively to be of equal value. The Local Government Association has sought additional borrowing flexibility for local government through capitalisation. In response, on 28 September 2007 the Government issued £500 million of

capitalisation directions to 46 authorities for the purpose of spending on equal pay back-pay.

A list of these 46 authorities is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/490459.

Religion

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations the Government has received on the activities of *(a)* The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* The New Kadampa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International; and when such representations were received. [156701]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has received correspondence from a member of the public regarding the alleged cultish behaviour of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, New Kadampa Tradition and Soka Gakkai International, and the recommendation of funding to these organisations under Round 2 of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. This representation was received on 1 May 2007. As far as we are aware, no other representation has been received.

Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling: Public Appointments

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members are of the Stakeholder Advisory Panel on home buying and selling; and what criteria were used to appoint its members. [153818]

Yvette Cooper: The Stakeholder Advisory Panel on home buying and selling consists of:

Yvette Cooper (chair CLG)
Mike Ockenden (AHIPP)
Peter Bollon-King (NAEA)
Nick Stace (Which?)
Fiona Hoyle (CoPSO)
Michael Coogan (CML)
Simon McWhirter (WWF)
Jeremy Leaf (RICS)
Ted Beardsall (Land Registry)
Paul Marsh (Law Society)
Heather Clayton (OFT)
David Saunders (BERR)
Matthew Symes (Non-executive director)
Jeremy Stanyard (Non-executive director)

Unitary Councils

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many councils she expects to be permitted to move ahead with a unitary bid in the initial stage following the prioritisation process outlined in the latest consultation paper on unitary bids. [155695]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my statement on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the breast cancer re-screening rate, within 36 months is in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* Wakefield; [156379]

(2) what proportion of eligible women in the Leeds/Wakefield breast screening area are receiving scans within the 36 month national standard. [156380]

Ann Keen: 36-month breast cancer screening interval rates for England and Leeds Wakefield and Bradford Pennine, the two screening centres which cover West Yorkshire, are shown in the following table. 38-month interval rates are also given as an indicator of how close intervals are to the national standard of 36 months. Figures are not available for Wakefield alone.

	36 month breast cancer screening interval rate—April to June 2007	*Percentage 38 month breast cancer screening interval rate—April to June 2007*
England	67	90
Bradford Pennine screening centre	69	93
Leeds Wakefield screening centre	10	46

Source:
NHS Cancer Screening Programme

The Government take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously and that is why Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 strategic health authorities in England on 9 February 2007 highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval.

Broomfield Hospital: PFI

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations the Department received *(a)* supporting and *(b)* against the Broomfield private finance initiative scheme; what meetings were organised on this scheme and with whom; and what other consultation was conducted and what the balance of opinion was arising therefrom. [156526]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The former Minister of State (Andy Burnham), met with the hon. Members for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns), Maldon and East Chelmsford (Mr. Whittingdale), the right hon. Member for Saffron Walden (Sir Alan Haselhurst), the hon. Member for Braintree (Mr. Newmark), Chair of the Trust David Bullock, Chief Executive of the Trust Andrew Pike, Helen Davis (from the strategic health authority (SHA)) and Peter Coates, Deputy Director of Finance-Investment, from the Department on Monday 20 November 2006 to discuss progress of the Broomfield private finance initiative scheme.

The full business case, which is supported by local commissioners, the trust and the SHA has been submitted to the Department for approval.

Chronically Sick

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the implementation of the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions; and when the framework will be reviewed. [155949]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework (NSF) for long-term conditions has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of local priorities and needs. The "NSF Good Practice Guide" demonstrates that that a number of organisations have successfully addressed aspects of service delivery outlined in the NSF.

The Department has no plans to review the NSF.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of the documents rediscovered by his Department in 2007 relating to the safety of blood products have *(a)* been and *(b)* not been (i) publicly released and (ii) released to the Archer inquiry to date; and if he will make a statement. [156290]

Dawn Primarolo: Two sets of documents related to blood safety, previously believed to be missing, were recovered in 2006:

some 4,500 documents located in storage in unregistered files. These are now held in 101 registered files.

some 600 documents returned by a firm of private solicitors who acted for claimants in HIV litigation in 1989. These are now held in 20 registered files.

These documents in 121 files are being reviewed and issued in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Documents from 100 files, comprising 80 of the 101 files in category 1 and the 20 files in category 2, have been supplied to the Archer inquiry. Documents from the remaining 21 files will be issued this month, within the timetable agreed with the inquiry team.

The documents are being scanned and placed on the Department's website for public access. So far the documents in 60 of the 101 previously unregistered files have been placed on the Department's website. It is anticipated that documents from all 121 files will be on the Department's website by the end of November.

Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on progress towards full provision of dentistry on the NHS. [155427]

Ann Keen: The fundamental reforms introduced last year have provided for the first time a stable foundation for the national health service to develop dental services that meet local needs.

The recent Departmental report "NHS Dental Reforms: One year on" sets out the progress already made in developing new services and the further action being taken to support the NHS in improving access. This report has been placed in the Library.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153077]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally and to collect it would be at disproportionate cost.

General Medical Services Contract

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to provide NHS employers with a mandate to negotiate the arrangements for the new General Medical Services contract in 2008-08. [156412]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS employers have already begun negotiations with the British Medical Association's General Practitioners' Committee on possible changes to the General Medical Services contract for 2008-09, based on a mandate provided to them by the Department.

General Practitioners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department collects information on the number of foreign nationals in England registered with general practitioners. [156397]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Department does not hold this information centrally.

The Department is currently undertaking a review of access to the national health service by foreign nationals, the review is being conducted jointly with the Home Office Border and Immigration Agency and will cover access to both primary and secondary care.

Health Hazards: Electric Cables

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice he has received from the Health Protection Agency to the Stakeholder Advisory Group on ELF EMF's report; if he will place a copy of the advice in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [156852]

Dawn Primarolo: Following the publication of the Stakeholder Advisory Group on extremely low frequency and electromagnetic fields (SAGE) report, the former Minister of State (Caroline Flint) at the time, wrote to the Health Protection Agency to ask for its considered view and advice to Government. We are currently awaiting a reply.

Health Hazards: Mercury

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on public health of mercury in *(a)* vaccinations, *(b)* dental amalgams and *(c)* low energy light bulbs. [156823]

Dawn Primarolo: As with all medicinal products, vaccine safety is continually monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

with advice from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM). The CHM has thoroughly reviewed the safety of vaccines containing mercury (thiomersal).

Several large studies have found no evidence of a link between thiomersal-containing vaccines and neurodevelopmental disorders. MHRA and CHM advice, available on the MHRA website, is that there is no evidence of harm from the very small quantities of thiomersal contained in some vaccines, with the exception of possible allergic reactions such as skin rashes or local swelling at the site of injection. This view concurs with that of the World Health Organisation, the United States Institute of Medicine and the European Medicines Agency.

The use of dental amalgam is declining in the United Kingdom as a result of increased application of alternatives, changes in the commissioning of primary dental care and a general improvement in dental health. We expect this decline to continue. However it remains an effective direct restorative option and there is no evidence to suggest that its use poses any significant health risk.

No formal assessment has been made in respect of the potential effect on public health of mercury in low energy light bulbs.

Health Services: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head of population on health services in 2006-07 in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* local authority area ranked in order. [155904]

Mr. Bradshaw: Tables showing the spend by head of population in primary care trusts for 2006-07 and social services spending in 2005-06 for each council in ranked order have been placed in the Library. These are for the latest years for which data are available.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* gun shot and *(b)* knife wounds the NHS has treated in the last 12 months. [156834]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected on the number of gun shot and knife wounds the national health service has treated.

Information is available however on those patients who were actually admitted to hospital for gun shot and knife injuries (these figures do not include patients who were treated in accident and emergency departments for gun shot/knife injuries and not admitted). Those cause codes that appear relevant are presented in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes for gun shot and knife wound injuries 2005-06: NHS hospitals, England

		Count
W32	Handgun discharge	44
W33	Rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	73
X72	Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge	10
X73	Intent self-harm by rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	17
X93	Assault by handgun discharge	44
X94	Assault by rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	51
Y22	Handgun discharge undetermined intent	9
Y23	Rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge undetermined intent	11
	Total	259
W26	Contact with knife sword or dagger	5,321

Notes:
1. Finished admission episodes:
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Cause code:
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
3. Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will address each of the seven questions asked by the hon. Member for Billericay in the letter to his Department on the subject of testosterone deficiency dated 31 May. [155967]

Ann Keen: A response to this letter was sent to the hon. Member on 19 July 2007. This reply answers all the hon. Member's questions and there is nothing further we can add to this response.

NHS Next Stage Review

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* cost to date (i) in total and (ii) broken down by major cost area and *(b)* expected overall cost to the public purse of Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review; [156415]

(2) what progress Lord Darzi is making in his NHS Next Stage Review; how many *(a)* clinicians, *(b)* managers and *(c)* other staff he has received representations from; how many NHS organisations the review team has formally met with since the announcement of the review; whether he still intends to publish an interim report of the work of the review in October; and if he will make a statement; — [156416]

(3) how many clinical pathway groups to inform the work of the NHS Next Stage Review have been established in each strategic health authority; and who the members are of each group which has been established. [156417]

Ann Keen: The interim report, published on 4 October, explains that the review is primarily a local process involving thousands of frontline staff, patients and public in the design of care pathways based on best practice evidence. This is core business for the national health service and as such involves no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Supermarkets: Ethics

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask the Competition Commission to inquire into whether practices of UK supermarkets involve significant exploitation of workers in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [152605]

Mr. Thomas: The Government do not request the Competition Commission to undertake inquiries except in certain, limited circumstances. Ensuring that markets operate freely and fairly is not a matter for the Government, but is for the independent competition authorities.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has asked the CC to investigate if any features of this market prevent, restrict or distort competition and if so, what action might be taken to remedy these. The CC has a statutory requirement to report within two years of a reference to them by the OFT. It is required to publish its final report by 8 May 2008, but is aiming to do so by October 2007. The CC expects to publish its emerging thinking for consultation on 23 January. The current timetable for the inquiry can be found at:

www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/ref2006/grocery/core_timetable.htm

The CC investigation is not limited to considering only the issues that the OFT has identified, and any issues should be raised direct with them.

Wind Power: Greenbelt

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many domestic wind turbines were granted planning permission on land designated as green belt for each of the previous three years for which figures are available. [156572]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: North East Region

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many arts organisations in *(a)* Stockton on Tees and *(b)* the North East received Arts Council England North East funding in each of the last 10 years. [149968]

Margaret Hodge: The table shows the amount of arts organisations in Stockton on Tees and the North East in receipt of Arts Council funding for each of the last 10 years.

Figures for the North East prior to 1999-2000 relate to arts organisations receiving lottery funding distributed by the Arts Council. From 1999-2000 the figures for the North East include regularly funded organisations. This is because prior to the merger of the Regional Arts Boards in 2003-04 to create Arts Council England, each region managed its funding records independently.

	Stockton on Tees	*North East*
1997-98	7	215
1998-99	1	48
1999-2000	3	129
2000-01	5	180
2001-02	6	195
2002-03	3	143
2003-04	11	270
2004-05	9	229
2005-06	11	231
2006-07	9	218

BBC Trust: Public Appointments

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consider introducing *(a)* pre-appointment parliamentary scrutiny and *(b)* confirmation hearings for future appointments to the BBC Trust. [156454]

James Purnell *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: BBC Trust appointments are among those regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. We believe the scrutiny afforded by existing arrangements, which include the involvement of an OCPA trained independent assessor throughout, is sufficient. We do not therefore plan to consider introducing pre-appointment parliamentary scrutiny or confirmation hearings for future appointments to the BBC Trust.

This is consistent with proposals set out in the Government Green Paper "The Governance of Britain" (July 2007), which accepts there are a number of positions in which Parliament has a particularly strong interest because the office holder exercises statutory or other powers in relation to protecting the public's rights and interests. The Government believe that Parliament, through its Select Committees, may play a valuable role where such appointments are not subject to oversight by the Commissioner for Public Appointments or other form of independent scrutiny.

Big Lottery Fund: Voluntary Organisations

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many voluntary organisations which were formerly funded from single regeneration budgets have bid for Big Lottery funding in each year for which figures are available; and how many have been successful in each year. [155793]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Culture: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government spent on *(a)* the arts, *(b)* sport and *(c)* heritage in each year since 1997. [155768]

James Purnell: The following table shows how much the Department for Culture, Media and Sport spent on the arts, sport and heritage from 1997 to 2007-08.

	Sector		
	Arts	*Sport*	*Heritage*
1997-98	196.4	50.1	155.8
1998-99	199.7	49.4	149.1
1999-2000	229.8	51.6	145.6
2000-01	238.8	52.6	149.7
2001-02	252.9	64.5	142.0
2002-03	291.2	109.8	156.7
2003-04	326.6	78.9	156.3
2004-05	370.5	111.5	169.0
2005-06	410.4	117.5	165.1
2006-07	430.2	168.7	188.4
2007-08	420.3	186.4	190.7

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155879]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants are employed by his Department, broken down by policy area. [148539]

Margaret Hodge: The requested information is in the following table:

Policy area	*Number of staff*	*Number of staff (FTE)*
Architecture, Historic Environment	31	30.4
Sports	35	34.6
Arts	21	20.8
Creative Industries Division	19	18.8
Active Generation Team	5	4.5
Tourism	30	29.9
Lottery, Communities and International	27	25.6
Museums, Libraries and Cultural Property Unit	31	31
Gambling and National Lottery Licensing	18	18
Broadcasting Policy	32	32
Humanitarian Assistance Unit	7	7
Government Art Collection	14	13.5
Government Olympic Executive	46	44.8
Olympic Games Board Secretariat	6	6
Total	322	316.9

Notes:
1. The remaining 205 staff work in Human Resources, Finance and Planning, Strategy, Private Office, Communications and Directorate support.
2. The department is planning to reduce its headcount by around 70 FTE by 2011.
3. The Culture, Creativity and Economy Group deals with a range of subjects; Arts, Architecture, Heritage, Creative Industries, Sports, Museums, Libraries, Broadcasting Policy, Tourism, National Lottery and Gambling Licensing and Tourism.
4. Corporate Services covers Human Resources, Finance and Planning, Strategy and Private Office.

Digital Broadcasting: Broadcasting Reception

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households which are capable of receiving a high quality and reliable analogue television signal but will not be capable of receiving a fully reliable digital television signal after digital switchover in *(a)* Argyll and Bute, *(b)* the STV region and *(c)* the UK. [152466]

James Purnell *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* At the time of switchover (which will be in 2010 for the STV region) digital terrestrial coverage across the whole of the UK should substantially match that which the present analogue service achieves—that is, 98.5 per cent. of households. Although we do not have information on coverage for individual constituencies, Ofcom estimates that around 97 per cent. of households in the STV North region and around 99.4 per cent. in STV Central region will be capable of receiving a high quality and robust signal after digital switchover. Unfortunately, estimates of analogue coverage are not available.

Digital Broadcasting: Sight Impaired

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department will be making any funds available to blind and partially-sighted persons to purchase new equipment to enable them to use teletext once the analogue signal has been switched off. [156192]

James Purnell: The Digital Switchover Help Scheme will ensure that households where at least one person is registered blind or registered partially-sighted will be provided with the appropriate equipment to convert one TV set and, where necessary, the relevant help to install and use such equipment and an aerial installation. Help will be free to eligible households in receipt of income support, jobseeker's allowance or pension credit. Other households will be asked to contribute £40 towards the cost of support.

Where the eligible household opts for the digital terrestrial platform, the scheme will provide a set top converter box which meets the scheme's core receiver requirement. This incorporates a number of features, such as audio description, which will be of benefit to blind and partially sighted people. There is no requirement for the scheme to enable audio access to digital text

services. The Consumer Expert Group, which includes the RNIB and SENSE were consulted on the scheme requirements. The core receiver requirements, which take costs into account, will be kept under regular review.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the requirements for set-top boxes provided by the Digital Switchover Help Scheme include an on/off button; and if he will make a statement. [151255]

James Purnell *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The Core Receiver Requirements for digital switchover Help Scheme equipment state that any digital receiver provided as part of the scheme shall have a power switch in an easily accessible position with which the receiver can be placed into its lowest possible consumption mode (e.g. standby). The requirements also require that a corresponding function should be included in the design of the remote control for such receivers.

Set-top boxes remain on low power standby rather than being switched off completely when not in use, in order to allow them to receive important over-the-air downloads (for example, to rescan for frequency changes), in a way which causes minimum disruption for the viewer, at very low levels of energy consumption.

Gambling: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether advertising of gambling-related activities at televised sports events during children's television viewing hours will be permitted under the proposed Committee of Advertising Practice and Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice gambling advertising rules. [148535]

James Purnell: Under the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) and Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) new codes of practice, which came into effect on 1 September, there are strict controls in place about the content and scheduling of gambling advertisements and restrictions on advertising during and around children's programmes or programmes commissioned for, principally directed at or likely to appeal particularly to children.

In addition to the CAP and BCAP codes, the gambling industry has introduced a voluntary 9 pm watershed on all broadcast gambling advertising, with an exception for bingo and lottery advertisements which are already permitted and sports betting advertising around sports events, as part of their social responsibility code on gambling advertising.

National Lottery: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by each of the National Lottery distributors. [155766]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and it has not been possible to collate the data requested in the time available. Some of the information requested is already in the public domain, in distributor's annual reports.

National Lottery: Public Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each National Lottery distributor spent on public affairs and public relations activities in the last period for which figures are available. [155765]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and it has not been possible to collate the data requested in the time available. Some of the information requested is already in the public domain, in national lottery distributor's annual reports.

Sports: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the 10,000 voluntary community sports coaches announced on 24 September are *(a)* additional to and *(b)* distinct from the young volunteers trained to work in schools and community clubs and trained adult mentors announced as part of the Game Plan strategy in 2003; and if he will make a statement. [156279]

James Purnell: The 10,000 voluntary Community Sports Coaches announced on the 24 September will be additional to and distinct from the young volunteers and leaders supported by the Step into Sport scheme which is part of the National School Sport Strategy.

Game Plan was published as a strategy document in December 2002. The Government have used it to inform their policy on sport where appropriate.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) from which areas the 10,000 voluntary community sports coaches, announced on 24 September, will be recruited; [156280]

(2) when he expects the 10,000 voluntary community sports coaches, announced on 24 September, to *(a)* be recruited and *(b)* begin their coaching activities; and what steps his Department plans to take to (i) encourage, (ii) monitor and (iii) audit and account for progress with this initiative; [156281]

(3) which national governing bodies will be responsible for recruiting the 10,000 voluntary community sports coaches announced on 24 September; how much each such body will receive; how much of the £5 million announced for the initiative will be allocated to *(a)* Sports Coach UK and *(b)* Sport England; and when the funding will be made available to each responsible body. [156282]

James Purnell: We are working on detailed plans with Sport England, Youth Sport Trust and sports coach UK to start the recruitment of 10,000 volunteer sports coaches from April 2008, in the most deprived areas.

Written Questions

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to answer question *(a)* 148539 on civil servants and *(b)* 148535 on advertising: gambling, tabled by the hon. Member for Bath on 4 July 2007. [156248]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Both questions were answered on 3 October.

TRANSPORT

A1: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the removal of six roundabouts on the A1 in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. [156690]

Mr. Tom Harris: Construction work has commenced at all six roundabout junctions, with the most significant progress being made at Blyth, Apleyhead and Gonerby Moor.

Overall project completion is expected in early 2009. This is slightly later than originally programmed due to the effects of the wet weather during the summer and refocusing traffic management to minimise the impact of the works on the travelling public.

Biofuels

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* volume and *(b)* proportion of biofuels used in England was (i) imported and (ii) produced domestically in each of the last five years; what the equivalent estimated figures are for each year up to 2010; and what impact this had upon reducing carbon emissions from vehicles. [154745]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total quantities of biofuels released for consumption in the UK are available via the HM Revenue and Customs website at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil. Annual figures are summarised in the following table. Information on the carbon savings associated with these biofuels is not available.

Annual quantities of biofuels released for consumption in the UK and estimated carbon savings

	Millions of litres	
	Biodiesel	*Bioethanol*
2002	3	0
2003	19	0
2004	21	0
2005	33	85
2006	169	95

Provisional figures suggest that the total quantity of biofuel released for consumption over the first eight months of 2007 amounted to some 318 million litres, or around 1 per cent. of total road transport fuel sales. The Government do not hold precise data on the origin of these fuels, and information on the carbon savings associated with them is not available. All of the bioethanol over the period in question was imported, whereas a significant amount of the biodiesel was produced in the UK. During 2006 and 2007, however, imports of biodiesel rose sharply.

The Government are due to introduce a Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) in April 2008. This should create a demand for around 1 billion litres of biofuel in 2008, rising to around 1.75 billion litres in 2009 and 2.5 billion litres in 2010. We anticipate that this demand will be met by both imported and domestically produced biofuels. The carbon savings will depend on a number of factors, including the carbon intensity of the biofuels transport fuel suppliers choose to source. The RTFO's reporting requirements are designed to provide a strong incentive for transport fuel suppliers to source sustainable, low-carbon biofuels.

The Government have also announced that from 2010-11 they aim to reward biofuels under the RTFO according to the amount of carbon they save. This should provide greater certainty over the level of carbon savings that the biofuels should deliver. Further details are set out in an informal policy paper which is available via this Department's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/.

British Transport Police: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the British Transport Police. [154134]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN

E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what accounts directions were issued by her Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156645]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000, HM Treasury issue accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 Department for Transport has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

2005-06

Civil Aviation Authority
British Transport Police
Trinity House
Northern Lighthouse Board
Commissioners of Irish Lights
Passenger Focus

2006-07

Civil Aviation Authority
British Transport Police

Trinity House
Northern Lighthouse Board
Commissioners of Irish Lights
Passenger Focus

East Coast Railway Line: Franchises

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to ensure that the successful bidder for the Inter City East Coast franchise includes in their operations a major commitment to environmental sustainability; and what measures have been taken to ensure that such a commitment is an objective when awarding other new rail franchise contracts. [155729]

Mr. Tom Harris: Bidders for the Inter City East Coast franchise were required to set out plans for measuring and reducing the environmental impact of their rail activities. They also had to address the main environmental impacts of rail operation, (carbon emissions, air quality and noise); to take account of the need to conserve resources; and to reduce waste and the contamination of water and land. The winning bidder committed, among other initiatives, to reduce fuel consumption per passenger kilometre by 28 per cent. over the franchise term and to invest £400,000 to reduce energy use at stations and depots.

Great Western Trains

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many extra carriages First Great Western will receive out of the recently announced national total of 1,300; and what change there has been in the number of carriages on the First Great Western franchise since 1997. [155787]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to provide details on the nature and deployment on the balance of the new rolling stock. The bulk of this will be agreed with the rail industry following publication in November of the industry proposals to deliver the high level output specification. The Department for Transport will publish a rolling stock plan in January 2008.

Details on the number of carriages operated by individual franchises in the past are not held by the Department.

Lorries: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicle annual safety tests were conducted by VOSA in each financial year since 2000-01; and what percentage of heavy goods vehicles failed *(a)* initial and *(b)* final safety test in each financial year. [155985]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many heavy goods vehicle annual safety tests were conducted by VOSA in each financial year since 2000-01; and what percentage of heavy goods vehicles failed *(a)* initial and *(b)* final safety test in each financial year in its Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* private cars and light vehicles, *(b)* motorcycles, *(c)* public service vehicles, *(d)* trailers for heavy goods vehicles and *(e)* heavy goods vehicles were recalled on safety grounds in each financial year since 2000-01. [156052]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed in April 2003. VOSA is responsible for the publication of vehicle safety recalls. Its records indicate:

	Private cars and light vehicles	*Heavy goods vehicles*	*Commercial, trailers*	*Motorcycles*	*Public service vehicles*
2003	134,407	62,513	726	13,775	2,800
2004	764,336	80,030	4,134	36,708	2,384
2005	1,007,345	71,681	4,311	45,650	12,843
2006	923,867	53,692	195	45,108	4,026

Please note, although the above number of vehicles have been recalled, they may not have proved to be defective. VOSA's figures are recorded by calendar year not financial year. To break these figures down into financial year would result in disproportionate costs.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* class 3 and 4 vehicles and *(b)* goods vehicles between 3 tonne and 3.5 tonne gross weight took an MOT test in each financial year since 2001; and how many and what percentage failed in each year. [156051]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many *(a)* class 3 and 4 vehicles and *(b)* goods vehicles between 3 tonne and 3.5 tonne gross weight took an MOT test in each financial year since 2001; and how many and what percentage failed in each year in its effectiveness report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* grade 7 equivalent and above managers, *(b)* testers, *(c)* vehicle inspectors and *(d)* vehicle examiners were employed in (i) the Vehicle

Inspectorate and (ii) the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each financial year since 2000-01. [156053]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed in April 2003. The following table indicates the number of posts it had for the roles requested, as at 1 April of each year.

	Grade7+	*Tester*	*Vehicle inspector*	*Vehicle examiner*
2003	40	121	401	494
2004	43	110	427	542
2005	46	94	424	556
2006	53	80	417	524
2007	55	66	397	502

Figures prior to 2003 for the Vehicle Inspectorate could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Similar information on staff numbers was published in the Vehicle Inspectorates Annual Reports, a copy of which was placed in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many MOT vehicle testing stations are in operation. [156057]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of approved MOT garages at 1 October 2007 was 18,950.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many MOT vehicle testing stations were routinely inspected (as opposed to having a targeted inspection) to ensure that they complied with safety and other requirements in each financial year since 2000-01. [156058]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many MOT vehicle testing stations were routinely inspected (as opposed to having a targeted inspection) to ensure that they complied with safety and other requirements in each financial year since 2003 in its Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section. Any figures prior to 2003 can be found in The Vehicles Inspectorate report in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the MOT Enforcement Transformation programme is; how MOT vehicle testing stations will be classified in the future; what safety checking regimes are for each class of MOT vehicle testing station; and how it was determined that the new checking regimes will work effectively. [156059]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) MOT Enforcement Transformation programme supports the delivery of a number of its strategic objectives to improve the quality and consistency of the private vehicle testing service to the public. Focussing on non-compliant MOT garages, the risk based programme aims to improve MOT testing standards and operational efficiency.

Similarly to the existing Operator Compliance Risk Score (OCRS) system, MOT garages will be classified as Red, Amber or Green.

VOSA monitor MOT garage safety through:

analysis of the MOT database,

intelligence received,

MOT Appeals,

random and targeted re-inspection of vehicles, and

mystery shopper exercises.

VOSA trialled the risk based approach for 100 MOT garages in the Midlands area from June—October 2006. Analysis of the trial results demonstrated that the risk scoring mechanism is an effective method of predicting actual non-compliance by an MOT garage.

Office of Rail Regulation: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by the Office of Rail Regulation. [154430]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation has 1.5 full-time equivalent press officers.

Public Service Vehicles: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public service vehicle (PSV) annual safety tests were conducted by VOSA in each financial year since 2000-01; and how many PSVs failed their *(a)* initial and *(b)* final safety test in each financial year. [155986]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many public service vehicle (PSV) annual safety tests were conducted by VOSA in each financial year since 2000-01; and how many PSVs failed their *(a)* initial and *(b)* final safety test in each financial year in its Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public service vehicles (PSVs) failed their final safety test for a reason relating to their *(a)* steering mechanisms and *(b)* braking systems; and what percentage of the number of tests conducted by VOSA on PSVs in each financial year each figure represents. [155987]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many public service vehicles (PSVs) failed their final safety test for a reason relating to their *(a)* steering mechanisms and *(b)* braking systems; and what percentage of the number of tests conducted by VOSA on PSVs its effectiveness report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicles failed their final safety test for a reason connected to their *(a)* steering mechanisms and *(b)* braking systems; and

what percentage each figure represents of the number of tests conducted by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency on heavy goods vehicles in each year. [155988]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes figures of how many heavy goods vehicles failed their final safety test for a reason connected to their *(a)* steering mechanisms and *(b)* braking systems; and what percentage each figure represents of the number of tests conducted by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency on heavy goods vehicles in each financial year in its effectiveness report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Railway Stations: Catering

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Network Rail on the provision of Fairtrade coffee at rail stations following the discontinuance of AMT's contract with Network Rail; and if she will make a statement. [156407]

Mr. Tom Harris: None. This is a commercial matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for further information relating to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Safety

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment she has made of safety at *(a)* manned and *(b)* unmanned mainline rail stations; [154743]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the merits of manned mainline rail stations during operating hours. [154744]

Mr. Tom Harris: Staffing levels at stations are a matter for the station operator to determine.

The Department has not made any recent assessments of safety and/or personal security at manned and unmanned mainline rail stations or on the merits of manned stations during operating hours. However, a national passenger survey is undertaken twice a year by Passenger Focus to assess how safe passengers feel at stations and on trains. In the most recent survey of over 21,000 passengers most people were satisfied with the level of safety and security provided at stations. Also, as part of the Secure Stations scheme accreditation process, a passenger survey is required to be undertaken to assess how safe passengers feel at the station.

Railways: Security

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions UK railway lines have been closed because of security alerts in each of the last 10 years. [156478]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Road Traffic Control: A249

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the average waiting times are during rush hour of vehicles on the A249 going to Maidstone from the Sittingbourne or Sheppey direction at the Junction 5 roundabout; [155917]

(2) how much the re-design and signalling of the Stockbury roundabout at Exit 5 of the M2 cost; [155918]

(3) what assessment the Highways Agency has made of the safety of Exit 5 of the M2. [155919]

Mr. Tom Harris: Through its watchman role, the Highways Agency continues to monitor the observed queues at junction 5 of the M2 during peak times but does not currently have a record of the average waiting times. Queuing is generally restricted to the A249 rather than the M2.

As a consequence of earlier monitoring, the Agency invested £252,626 between 2000-01 and 2003-04 in the re-design and signalling of the Stockbury roundabout.

Following this investment and further improvements in 2005, safety improved and the junction is now a relatively low priority in safety terms. The Agency continues to monitor the situation.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the current backlog of road maintenance is for strategic roads; what the estimated costs of removing the backlog are; and what the estimated time for removing the backlog is, broken down by region. [156520]

Mr. Tom Harris: There is no backlog of road maintenance for the strategic road network i.e. the English trunk roads. The network is maintained by applying whole life cost principles, and takes account of the fact that it is not practical or sustainable to maintain the whole network in an as new condition.

Roads: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what STATS19 returns are; and how they are used to generate road accident casualty figures. [155924]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The national collision statistical reporting form (commonly known as STATS19) is used to collect standard information, when a personal injury road accident is reported to the police. The information is

collected by the police at the scene of the accident or in a minority of cases it is reported on by a member of the public at a police station. Some 50 data items are collected for each accident, including the time, location and circumstances of the accident, the vehicles involved and some information on each casualty. After processing this information is then forwarded by each police force (via local processing authorities in the case of some forces) to the Department electronically and entered into a database. The data are checked, analysed and detailed results published annually in "Road Casualties Great Britain". In addition quarterly estimates of casualties are published, based on provisional data returns.

The current data collection system was set up in 1979 following a wide ranging review. The statistics are used to inform public debate on matters of road safety and to provide the basis for determining and monitoring road safety policy at the local and national level. National and local government and local police forces work closely to achieve an agreed national reporting standard. The form is subject to quinquennial reviews which consider any amendments that may be required. Changes are agreed by the Steering Committee on Road Accidents Statistics (SCRAS) which was set up in 1977 to oversee the process for road accident data collection. The membership of the committee is drawn from a wide range of bodies and includes representatives of central government, local government and the police.

A copy of the current form used by the police (introduced January 2005) can be found on page 173 in "Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report", published on 27 September 2007. Copies of this report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Shipping: Oil

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ban ship-to-ship oil transfer in the Firth of Forth; what recent assessment the Government has made of the risks to the environment of spillage from such transfers; what contingency plans are in place for such circumstances in the area; and if she will make a statement. [156265]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has no plans to introduce legislation banning ship-to-ship oil transfer in the Firth of Forth.

The Department has not made any recent assessment of the risks to the environment of spillage from ship-to-ship transfers. However, when a ship-to-ship transfer is being considered, we expect the responsible authority to carry out an assessment which takes account of the risks involved.

The following relevant contingency plans are in place for the Firth of Forth:

Oil Spill Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Ship-to-Ship Transfer (approved August 2006)

Clearwater Forth Plan (approved August 2006).

Stretch Limousines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her timetable is for the introduction of policy guidelines for stretch limousines; and if she will make a statement. [155747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department intends to publish guidance on stretch limousines by January.

Taxis

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projections have been made of the number of taxi drivers that will be operating in London for each of the next five years. [153877]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are currently 24,500 licensed taxi drivers in London. Transport for London indicates that, assuming the upward trend in the number of taxi drivers continues, this is likely to rise to 25,500 by 2012.

Transport Direct

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* original estimated and *(b)* outturn cost was of Transport Direct. [154749]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The original budget for the Transport Direct Programme, which included the development and operation of the Transport Direct Portal among other things, was for the period of spending review 2002 (April 2003 to March 2006). Subsequent budgets for Transport Direct were allocated on an annual basis in spending review 2004 (April 2005 to March 2008) and will be allocated in comprehensive spending review 2007 (April 2008 to March 2011). The estimated and outturn cost of Transport Direct to March 2007 was:

Period	*Estimate*	*£ million Outturn*
2003-04 to 2005-06	57	45
2006-07	11	10

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* estimated and *(b)* outturn cost of the (i) development and (ii) running of the Transport Direct portal was in the last year. [154750]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In April 2006, Transport Direct became an operational business unit of the Department for Transport, with the budgets revised to reflect the maturity of the Transport Direct Portal and the reduced need for capital investment. The Transport Direct Portal Service encompasses the Transport Direct Portal Design, Build and Operate (DBO) contract, which covers both development and operation, and the data and services provided by other third parties that underpin the Transport Direct Portal. The estimated and outturn costs for the Transport Direct Portal Service for FY 2006-07 were:

Period FY 2006-07	*£ million*
Estimate	6.1
Outturn	5.9

These figures represent the total sums paid to the Atos Origin Consortium (the DBO contractor) for all aspects of the DBO contract and to other third-party providers of data and services to the Transport Direct Portal.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the value for money of the Transport Direct portal over the last 12 months. [154751]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The original business case for Transport Direct recorded three key value for money measures:

Achieve 1 million user sessions in the first year of service.

Achieve 10 million user sessions by the end of 2006.

10 per cent. of users reassess their travel habits as a result of the information provided by TD.

Of these measures:

The 1 millionth user session was achieved 10 months after soft-launch of the service (soft-launched in July 2004, achieved in May 2005)

The 10 millionth user session was recorded on 1 December 2006

On changing habitual behaviour the portal service includes a self-completion feedback questionnaire. The responses to the questionnaire suggested that for individuals who had made the journey before (about a third of the 2,034 respondents):

17 per cent. claimed they would change their route.

24 per cent. would change when they intended to travel.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many user sessions Transport Direct recorded in each month since June 2006; and what the weekly rate of user sessions was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [154753]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since June 2006 the following user sessions have been recorded on the Transport Direct portal. This includes user sessions generated by end-users accessing the portal using PC, DigiTV and mobile phones, and those generated by other systems accessing Transport Direct via a web service call. The use of web services to access Transport Direct was introduced in August 2006:

Month	*Total*
July 2006	697,000
August 2006	778,000
September 2006	746,000
October 2006	802,000
November 2006	951,000
December 2006	893,000
January 2007	983,000
February 2007	855,000
March 2007	954,000
April 2007	829,000
May 2007	940,000
June 2007	985,000
July 2007	1,082,000
August 2007	1,126,000
Total	12,621,000

The average weekly number of user sessions recorded during the six weeks ending 16 September is 254,000.

Vehicle Number Plates: Fraud

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate the Government have made of the numbers of cloned or false number plates being used on British roads. [156560]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of vehicles that are, or may have been, subject to vehicle cloning or fitting of false plates is not known. There is no estimate available.

Vehicle Number Plates: Theft

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of mandatory use of tamper-proof number plates to the reduction of vehicle registration plate theft; and if she will make a statement. [156231]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In February 2006 the DVLA adopted a voluntary standard for theft resistant number plates to provide consumers with an assurance that products meeting the standard had been subject to rigorous testing. The standard is supported by the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Officials from the Department have been in discussion with representatives of ACPO and the leading number plate manufacturers about the possibility of making theft resistant plates mandatory. It is recognised that the higher cost of theft resistant plates would impose a financial burden on industry and the general public and it will be necessary to draw up and evaluate an impact assessment before making a decision on whether to proceed further. There would also be a public consultation before any decision was made.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures have been implemented to improve casualty reporting in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [154257]

Derek Twigg: The casualty reporting and notification process has been co-ordinated by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) at RAF Innsworth since 2005 and all information is routed through it. Casualty reporting from Afghanistan and Iraq has been further streamlined by the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration system into these theatres in March 2007.

Casualty figures for Afghanistan and Iraq are now published twice-monthly a fortnight in arrears (previously monthly a month in arrears) and, in conjunction with JCCC, the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) has conducted an exercise to validate historical operational casualty data from January 2001 onwards. The results of their analysis, together with current Aeromedical Evacuation and hospital patient data, have been published on the internet at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

and

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

Furthermore, as I announced to the House on 25 July 2007, MOD has moved from a system of recording and reporting mental health statistics relating solely to Operation TELIC (Iraq) to a new system covering all in-service personnel assessed with a mental health disorder at our out-patient Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH). The report also includes a return for new in-patient admissions under the MOD's contract with the Priory Group. These are published quarterly by the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA), and the first report, for the period January—March 2007, is available on their website at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/pdfs/mentalHealth/report_JanMar07.pdf

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ark Royal are planned to be withdrawn from service with the fleet. [154397]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: Our present planning assumption is that HMS Illustrious and HMS Ark Royal will be withdrawn from service in 2015 and 2012 respectively.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the intended in-service dates are of the new aircraft carriers. [154022]

Des Browne: As I announced to the House on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 865, the future aircraft carriers are expected to enter service in 2014 and 2016.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what type of helicopters will be made available for use on the UK's new aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement; [154023]

(2) how many and what type of aircraft will be made available for use on the UK's new aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement. [154049]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The new aircraft carrier has been designed to support, operate and sustain a Joint Force Air Group of up to 40 aircraft, including up to 36 Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) supported by four Maritime Airborne Surveillance and Control (MASC) aircraft, with the option of other helicopters (for example Merlin Mkl) embarked.

We are currently planning to acquire the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) to meet the JCA requirement. We are assessing the options to fulfil the MASC requirement and will make the decision when the programme achieves sufficient maturity; we currently expect the main investment decision to be around the end of the decade. We will continue to ensure our plans for JCA and MASC remain coherent with the CVE programme.

al-Yamamah Project

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 362W, on the al-Yamamah project, what the costs were for which his Department received a management fee from the Saudi Arabian government in respect of the al-Yamamah programme; in which years since 1985 a management fee was paid; whether the fees were retained by the Government; and if he will make a statement. [154618]

Des Browne: The Department has been paid a management fee in every year since 1986 to cover the cost of its participation in the al-Yamamah Project. The fee is held by the Department to cover in full expenditure as it arises on such items as the salaries and salary-related costs of the staff of the Saudi Armed Forces Project, office and domestic accommodation charges, travel and subsistence, IT and telecommunications, training and professional fees, and utilities.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 16, on military inquests, how many military coroners inquests are outstanding; on what dates he held meetings with ministerial colleagues to discuss outstanding coroners' inquests since he came into office; what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Leader of the House and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Justice on military inquests since 12 July 2007; and what his definition is of backlog. [151600]

Des Browne *[holding answer 23 July 2007]*: The scheduling of inquests touching on the deaths of Service personnel is a matter for the relevant coroner across England and Wales. As at 28 September 2007, 120 inquests had been completed on Service personnel killed on operations since 2001, 80 of which have been held since the Government took steps to speed up the process on 5 June 2006. 131 inquests remain open: 45 within the jurisdiction of the Oxfordshire Coroner; 44 for the Swindon and Wiltshire Coroner; and 42 for other coroners.

Of the original backlog of 59 inquests identified in the joint Written Ministerial Statement on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 4WS, two remain open within the Oxfordshire Coroner's jurisdiction, one of which has been scheduled. There is one inquest into the deaths of the 10 service personnel killed in the Hercules crash in January 2005 open within the Swindon and Wiltshire Coroner's jurisdiction.

I regard a backlog as having arisen when the volume of inquests makes it difficult for a coroner to conduct the necessary investigations and inquests in a timely manner. Additional resources have been made available by the MOD and the Ministry of Justice to meet the needs of the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire Coroners. We will keep the need for any further resources under close review.

Defence Ministers have engaged closely and regularly with colleagues in the Department for Constitutional Affairs/Ministry of Justice and there have been five joint Written Ministerial Statements to update Parliament on this issue and the additional resources made available. The most recent joint Written Ministerial Statement was made by myself and the Minister for Justice on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 97WS).

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to respond to the Defence Select Committee report on the state of military housing in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [155743]

Derek Twigg: We are looking in detail at the points raised in the report and will respond fully in due course.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of extending pro rata services pensions to all those who served in the armed forces, including those who served before 1975. [155780]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the then Minister for the Armed Forces during an adjournment debate on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 337-40, which clearly set out the legislation and policy background to the issue. The situation has not changed and there is no real prospect that this or any Government could afford the billions of pounds that would be needed to address public sector pensions legacy issues.

Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role UK armed forces will play in the EU military mission to Chad. [154222]

Des Browne: Following the agreement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1778, the EU are discussing a military mission to Chad/Central African Republic. The UK supports the mission as a key means of contributing to regional stability and helping to resolve the Darfur crisis, but we have made it clear that the role of the UK Armed Forces in any mission will be very limited given the extent of our commitments elsewhere.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Defence Export Services Organisation staff were employed in project offices dealing with exports of government to government contracts in April 2007; and how many had duties covering commercial and financial matters. [156338]

Des Browne: In April 2007, almost 200 Defence Export Services Organisation staff were employed in project offices dealing with government-to-government export contracts. Of these, 30 were mainly concerned with commercial and financial aspects of the projects.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Saudi Arabia

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many people were employed in project offices by the Defence Export Services Organisation in *(a)* Saudi Arabia and *(b)* Kuwait in (i) April 2006 and (ii) April 2007; [156336]

(2) how many staff there were in Defence Supply Secretary Offices overseas employed by the Defence Export Services Organisation in *(a)* April 2006 and *(b)* April 2007. [156337]

Des Browne: The numbers of Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) staff employed in project offices and in other offices overseas in April 2006 and April 2007 are shown in the table as follows.

	Staff	
Office [1]	*April 2006*	*April 2007*
Kuwait Project Office	3	2
Saudi Arabia Project Office	62	73
Other overseas offices	40	39

[1] Figures include locally employed staff. Part-time staff are counted as whole.

Defence Procurement Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by the Defence Procurement Agency. [154593]

Derek Twigg: In April 2007 the Defence Procurement Agency was merged with that of the Defence Logistics Organisation to become Defence Equipment and Support (DE and S). DE and S employs six press officers.

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the costs incurred as a result of *(a)* the procurement of the new carriers, *(b)* the procurement of the Joint Strike Fighter, *(c)* the Trident replacement programme, *(d)* procurement of the type 45 destroyers, *(e)* the Future Rapid Effect System, *(f)* upgrading naval bases for the new carriers and *(g)* replacing assets lost, damaged or prematurely worn out by the conflicts in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each of the next five years. [154019]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Current estimates of the costs incurred over the next five years for the programmes are as follows.

Carriers

The overall estimated costs to be incurred as a result of the procurement of the new carriers in the next five years will total £2,415 million.

Disclosure of the detailed estimated annual costings over the five-year period for the procurement of the new carrier would likely prejudice the commercial interest of the project and cannot be provided.

Joint Strike Fighter

Current estimates of the costs incurred for Joint Strike Fighter are shown in Table A.

Table A: Joint Strike Fighter

	£ million
2008-09	160
2009-10	200
2010-11	250
2011-12	285
2012-13	360

UK Nuclear Deterrent Programme

The costs provided in Table B are the estimated costs that the MOD expects to incur over the next three years to implement the decisions to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent capability beyond the life of the current Vanguard class submarines as set out in the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm6994) and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007.

The main part of the programme has not passed business case initial gate approval. Detailed spending plans for future years are therefore not set at this stage.

Table B: The future UK nuclear deterrent programme

	£ million
2008-09	200
2009-10	300
2010-11	400
2011-12	—
2012-13	—

Type 45 Destroyers

Current estimates of the costs for Type 45 Destroyers are shown in Table C.

Table C: Type 45 Destroyers

	£ million
2008-09	550
2009-10	430
2010-11	420
2011-12	290
2012-13	310

Future Rapid Effect System

The estimated costs for the assessment phase of the Future Rapid Effect System project as set out in the National Audit Office Ministry of Defence Major Projects Report 2006 is £649 million.

Disclosure of detailed estimated annual costings over the five year period for the procurement of FRES would likely prejudice the commercial interest of the project and cannot be provided.

Upgrading Naval Bases

The estimated costs to be incurred as a result of upgrading the naval bases for the new carriers in the next five years will total £67 million.

Disclosure of the detailed estimated annual costings over the five year period for the upgrading of the naval bases would likely prejudice the commercial interest of the project and cannot be provided.

Replacement of Assets

Due to the unpredictable nature of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan it is not possible to predict an estimate of the costs of replacing assets lost, damaged or prematurely worn out by the conflicts.

Departments: ICT

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department received from the disposal of information technology equipment in the last year for which figures are available; and what avenues were used for such disposal. [154031]

Derek Twigg: In the last financial year, the net sales revenue generated by the sale of information technology equipment was £120,000. The MOD disposes of this equipment through its Disposal Services Authority (DSA), using incentivised contracts of sale where returns are divided between MOD and the contractor, to encourage maximum revenue generation. Additionally, DSA runs a contract for the disposal of IT equipment classified as hazardous, for which a fee is paid.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [152714]

Derek Twigg: The MOD civilian staff numbers, taken from the departmental end of year accounts, is 90,650 (excluding trading funds). Figures for the 2006-07 financial year are not yet available, we are only able to supply four years of data. The number and value of annual appraisal related bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service (SCS), to fixed term appointees and to civil servants below the level of the SCS covered by the MOD main pay deal (excluding trading funds and agencies), over the past four years are listed in the following tables one to three. The Ministry of Defence also awards special bonuses to individuals and teams for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of professional qualifications which benefit MOD and the individual; these are shown in table four. The final table (five) shows the total value of all bonuses paid: in cash terms and as a percentage of the civilian work force.

Table 1: Bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	181	184	136	140
Value of bonuses paid (£)	1,178,500	918,000	711,737	701,221
Highest bonus payment (£)	16,000	12,500	11,358	9,822

Table 2: Bonuses paid to fixed term appointees

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	10	10	14	13
Value of bonuses paid (£)	73,191	65,586	112,329	86,531
Highest bonus payment (£)	12,915	14,340	8,500	6,827

Table 3: End of year bonuses paid to staff below the level of the SCS[1]

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of bonuses paid	46,463	38,766	36,043	27,497
Value of bonuses paid (£)	36,197,006	37,962,800	29,312,275	20,203,875
Highest bonus payment (£)	3,750	3,750	3,175	2,600

[1] Excluding MOD trading fund agencies

Table 4: Special bonuses[1]

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Number of staff who received bonus(es)	9,974	10,131	10,074	11,872
Value of bonuses paid (£)	3,961,417	4,364,400	3,962,482	3,909,531
Highest bonus payment (£)	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

[1] Excluding MOD trading fund agencies

Table 5: Summary of bonuses paid

Total	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Value of all bonuses paid (£)	41,410,114	43,310,786	34,098,823[1]	24,901,158
Percentage of total civilian work force	62.5	51.3	47.8	41.1

Ex-Servicemen: Military Decorations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veteran badges have been distributed in each East Midlands constituency. [156535]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in a format that identifies how many Veterans Badges have been issued in each parliamentary constituency and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However Service Personnel and Veterans Agency records have identified that a total of 20,967 badges have been issued in the East Midlands area during the period since 18 April 2005 to date 30 September 2007. The numbers have been identified by the applicants' East Midlands post codes and are broken down as follows:

	Number
Derbyshire	3,689
Leicestershire and Rutland	5,250
Warwickshire	3,770
Nottinghamshire	8,258

Veterans Badges were issued by the Veterans Policy Unit between May 2004 and 17 April 2005. During this period 82,000 badges were issued, however, detailed records in the format required are not held for this period.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why Multi-National Division-South East personnel have reassumed air traffic control responsibility for commercial flight services at Basra International Airport. [153653]

Des Browne *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* UK personnel reassumed Air Traffic Control (ATC) responsibility for commercial flight services at Basra International Airport pending the award of a new US-funded ATC training contract. Training to allow Iraqi personnel to take on this task across the country is expected to re-commence later this year, and Multi National Division (South-East)'s ATC responsibilities will be reviewed accordingly.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attacks there have been on British forces stationed at Basra airport in Iraq in each of the last 12 months; how many British personnel were injured or killed as a result of these attacks; and if he will make a statement. [155317]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The number of indirect fire attacks on UK forces stationed at Basra air station in Iraq in each of the last 12 months is broken down in the following table:

Month	Number of indirect fire attacks
2006	
October	6
November	8
December	16
2007	
January	18
February	12
March	10
April	64
May	77
June	76
July	74
August	32
September	5

There have been three UK service personnel killed as a result of indirect fire attacks on Basra air station over this period. They were killed in a single incident on 19 July 2007. It is not possible to break down the number of persons injured as a result of each of these attacks, as this would contravene operational security and be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Further information on the number of UK military and civilian personnel killed and injured between March 2003 and August 2007 is provided on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

The information on the website does not include UK civilians employed or contracted by other Government Departments or by civilian contractors. This information is not held by the MOD.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft there are in the RAF, broken down by aircraft type. [154234]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of aircraft planned to be in service with the RAF on 31 March 2008 are contained in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Fleet number*
Typhoon	49
Tornado GR	137
Tornado F3	68
Harrier	78
Nimrod[1]	18
Tristar	9
VC10	16
Sentry	7
Sentinel	5
C130K[2]	20
C130J	24
C17[3]	5
Islander	2
BAe 146	2
BAe 125	6
Sea King	25
Dominie	9
Hawk	112
Tucano	95
Vigilant	64
Viking	82

[1] Includes Nimrod MR2 and R1.
[2] Does not reflect the loss of one C130K in Iraq on 23 August 2007.
[3] Figure does not include the sixth C17 announced by Secretary of State on 26 July 2007. This will be delivered later in 2008.

These figures include Sentinel, Typhoon and C17 aircraft that are continuing to be delivered during the current financial year. Three Typhoon aircraft remain to be delivered in this financial year. The last of these aircraft is expected to be delivered in the first quarter of 2008. Two Sentinel aircraft are to be delivered, one in the last quarter of 2007 and one in the first quarter of 2008. One C17 is due to be delivered from the Lockheed production line in the first quarter of 2008.

Ministry of Defence Police: Arrests

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many arrests were made by the Ministry of Defence police in each of the last five years; and how many of these resulted in successful prosecutions. [156348]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence police do not routinely record the total number of arrests that they make. Not all arrests result in prosecution. Some arrests are made on suspicions that later prove to be unfounded. Other arrests are made to prevent a potential offence being committed which result in subsequent de-arrest when the threat posed is removed.

Ministry of Defence Police: Finance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding was allocated to the Ministry of Defence police in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [156346]

Derek Twigg: The budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	291.020
2005-06	283.116
2004-05	255.480
2003-04	250.826
2002-03	142.268

The figures in the table are included in the chief constable's annual report and accounts. The figures quoted from financial year 2003-04 also include the budgetary provision for the Ministry of Defence Guard Service.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Government Departments contribute to the funding of the Ministry of Defence police force. [156347]

Derek Twigg: The funding for the Ministry of Defence police is included in the overall Defence budget. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Treasury and the Home Office reimburse the Department for Ministry of Defence policing commitments overseas, at the Royal Mint (an Executive Agency) and at gas installations in the United Kingdom, respectively.

RAF Cosford

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make a statement on future military uses for RAF Cosford in Shropshire. [155976]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1442W, and the statement made by the Minister for the Armed Forces on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 122WS. The Department is exploring a number of proposals for the future defence use of DCAE Cosford and no decision has yet been made. These proposals include the possibility of basing troops returning to the UK from Germany at Cosford, and further announcements will be made once this work has been completed.

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* destroyers and *(b)* frigates are scheduled to (i) leave and (ii) enter service with the Royal Navy in each of the next 10 years. [154393]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* On present planning assumptions, which are routinely reviewed and updated, we expect to withdraw destroyers and frigates from service as follows:

	Destroyers	Frigates
2007	0	0
2008	0	0
2009	2	0
2010	1	0
2011	2	0
2012	2	0
2013	1	0
2014	0	0
2015	0	1
2016	0	0

It is departmental policy to release in-service dates only for those warships for which the main investment decision has been taken. Over the period in question, in-service dates for new destroyers and frigates have been established as follows:

	Destroyers	Frigates
2007	0	0
2008	0	0
2009	1	0
2010	1	0
2011	2	0
2012	1	0
2013	1	0
2014	0	0
2015	0	0
2016	0	0

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the scheduled out-of-service dates are of each *(a)* destroyer, *(b)* frigate and *(c)* submarine in service with the Royal Navy. [154394]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1632W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Warships: Shipbuilding

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on shipbuilding for *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in each year since 1992. [154250]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally, on a year by year basis, nor is it held to the level of detail requested. Estimates detailing how much has been spent on total shipbuilding and repairs in UK industry and commerce can be found in the latest edition of the UK Defence Statistics. The information is in the table.

The figures for 2006-07 are still being finalised and will be released in the future. Programmes such as the new Future Carriers, the Type 45 and the Astute will lead to further investment in this area.

MOD estimated UK expenditure by industry group. shipbuilding and repairing—1991-92 to 2005-06

	£ million[1]
1991-92	1,227
1992-93	1,204
1993-94	1,020
1994-95	882
1995-96	766
1996-97	733
1997-98	790
1998-99	1,180
1999-2000	1,090
2000-01	1,110
2001-02	1,230
2002-03	1,070
2003-04	1,160
2004-05	1,060
2005-06	1,100

[1] Figures are VAT exclusive and at current prices.

HEALTH

Care Homes: Dementia

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the decent homes standards are for late stage dementia sufferers in residential accommodation. [156584]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

In June 2006 the Department for Communities and Local Government published 'A Decent Home: Definition and Guidance for implementation'. This publication makes it clear that:

"The decent homes standard does not apply to Care Homes providing nursing care and regulated by the Commission for Social Care" (paragraph 4.8).

However, the Department of Health has published national minimum standards under section 23 (1) of the Care Standards Act 2000 which form the basis on which the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) registers, inspects and reports on adult social care services, and councils who arrange these services, in England. These standards set out, among other things, the minimum level for residential accommodation for care homes regulated by the CSCI.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many older people he expects to have to sell their homes to cover the cost of residential care in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2030 and *(d)* 2040. [155732]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the sale of property to pay for residential care is not collected centrally. Nor is this information automatically collected locally where a person arranges their care privately. It is not, therefore, possible to estimate the number of homes that are, or may be, sold for this purpose.

It is the Government's policy to support people in their own homes for as long as possible, where it is safe to do so and when it accords with their wishes and assessed needs, which is where most people want to be.

For those people entering residential care, the Government have taken steps to help people avoid selling their homes to pay for residential care. Since October 2001, councils have been able to enter into deferred payments agreements with residents. Under this, the council place a legal charge on the resident's former home which is not collected until the end of the contract. This gives people more options for meeting care home fees.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide Government support specialist NHS centres for those affected by chronic fatigue syndrome in England. [156702]

Ann Keen: We have no current Government plans to provide support for further specialist national health service centres for those living with chronic fatigue syndrome.

Chronically Sick: Health Services

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the implementation of the National Framework for Long-term Conditions. [155638]

Ann Keen: The Department has published a number of documents to support implementation of the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions. These include an audit tool, evaluated examples of good practice, an information strategy, a summary of the evidence on savings and performance indicators within the better metrics project.

Primary care trusts are expected to work towards implementing the NSF over a 10-year period.

Community Hospitals

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been to recipient community hospitals of each scheme approved to date under the expenditure programme of up to £750 million in community hospitals and services announced in July 2006, broken down by constituency; and what the total cost of approved schemes under the programme is. [155737]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Capital allocations from the community hospitals and services programme are made to primary care trusts. £94.5 million has been allocated for 14 schemes. The total estimated cost of these schemes is £140 million. No scheme has been allocated less than the amount requested. We do not hold figures broken down into parliamentary constituencies.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many schemes and at what total cost had been approved by the end of financial year 2006-07 from the five-year expenditure programme of up to £750 million in community hospitals and services announced in July 2006. [155738]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* We announced four schemes in December 2006. A new primary care centre in Washington; the redevelopment of the Gosport War Memorial Hospital; the development of a new community health centre in Yate, Bristol; and the establishment of a Healthy Living Park in Minehead, West Somerset. The total amount allocated to these schemes is £44.6 million. All schemes are subject to the business case approval process.

Contraceptives

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase access to advanced training in contraceptive services. [155925]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is working with the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care, the Royal College of Nurses and others to look at improving access to training in contraception at all levels.

In particular the FPA, at the request of the Department, will hold a specialist working group on nurse training in contraception in November 2007.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-4W, on Departments: public bodies, what changes were made to the NHS Information Centre's responsibilities in each year since 2004-05; to which bodies any such responsibilities were transferred; and what the budget of the Centre was in each year. [154014]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known as The Information Centre for health and social care (IC), was created by statutory instrument as a special health authority on 1 April 2005.

The Information Centre's revenue resource limit from the Department is set out in the following table.

Revenue resource limit for The Information Centre 2004-05 to 2007-08

	Revenue Resource Limit (£ million)
2004-05	[1]0
2005-06	53.1
2006-07	41.5
2007-08	[2]37.2

[1] No funding allocated in 2004-05 because the IC was only established on 1 April 2005.

[2] The 2007-08 figure is subject to change because the revenue resource limit for 2007-08 will only be finalised in January.

The IC took over some of the functions of the earlier NHS Information Authority, which it replaced, together with most of the activities of the former Department of Health Statistics Division and the Prescribing Support Unit of West Yorkshire Health Authority, from which staff were transferred into the IC. These areas of work have been reviewed, integrated and further developed within the remit of the IC.

There have been no changes to the responsibilities of the IC since its establishment in April 2005. As part of the process of integration and consolidation since this date, every opportunity has been taken to ensure that the work undertaken by the IC has been delivered in the most effective and efficient manner. Changes in processes and ways of working have ensured that the IC has delivered efficiencies since it was established, while ensuring that priorities are still delivered.

Doctors: Career Structure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 452W, on doctors' training, how many junior doctors in the first round of applications were told in error that they had received a training place; and what actions were taken by deaneries to ensure that this did not occur. [154214]

Ann Keen: The number of applicants told in error is not held centrally. The Department understands that it was a small number and that deaneries contacted the doctors to notify them of the situation. It is a matter for deaneries to manage the appointment process.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors did not receive job offers in the first round of medical training applications; and what percentage of applicants this represented. [154275]

Ann Keen: In England, there were 27,800 eligible applicants for 15,554 training posts. At the end of Round 1, 85 per cent. of posts were filled. 13,168 applicants had accepted posts, leaving 14,632 who had either not received an offer or had not accepted an offer. The information held centrally does not distinguish between those who received an offer but did not accept it and those who did not receive any offer.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support will be offered to doctors who do not receive a training place in either the first or second round of recruitment in order to safeguard their future careers. [154276]

Ann Keen: We have prepared a package of support for those doctors who are appointable to a training post, but who are not successful in finding one by the end of round 2. This package of support includes additional training and educational opportunities. This comprises:

Access to career information about future training options via local deaneries. Applicants who are already in national health service employment will also be able to access career support from their employer.

About 1,000 extra one-year and general practitioner training posts which will become available for unsuccessful applicants at the end of round 2.

Educational bursaries, so that appointable but unsuccessful applicants who are in NHS service posts can pursue their clinical education and improve their chances of successfully applying for specialty training next year.

In addition, we have agreed that all foundation programme graduates (F2) who are unsuccessful at the end of round 2 will receive a formal career interview which will determine their eligibility for the extra one-year posts and educational grants offered in 'clearing'.

Also, we have opened up discussions with the British Medical Association, the Academy of Royal Colleges and other representatives of the medical profession to discuss whether there is any risk that high academic achievers may be missed by the end of the recruitment process, and if so, how we can avoid that happening.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of junior doctor training posts, unfilled after the first round of job offers, have been temporarily filled by doctors on short-term contracts. [154318]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for the local national health service to fill any vacant posts appropriately.

Dr. Bhattacharyya

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the redundancy of Dr. Bhattacharyya. [156704]

Ann Keen: Staff redundancies in the local national health service is a local matter.

Fibromyalgia

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to raise awareness of fibromyalgia among *(a)* the general public and *(b)* health professionals; [156505]

(2) what progress is being made in improving NHS *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* treatment of fibromyalgia; [156506]

(3) what recent representations he has had and received on fibromyalgia. [156544]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the progress being made by the national health service into improving the diagnosis and treatment of fibromyalgia.

We have taken no recent steps to raise awareness of fibromyalgia among the general public and health professionals.

We have received three recent Downing Street e-petitions on fibromyalgia, as well as correspondence from individuals and their Members of Parliament.

Health Professions: Employment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to assist newly qualified nurses to find employment; and what recent discussions there have been between his Department and the Health Ministers in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Scotland on placing newly qualified (i) nurses, (ii) physiotherapists and (iii) consultant doctors in employment. [155613]

Ann Keen: In April 2007 the Social Partnership Forum, a partnership between the Department, unions and NHS employers, launched an action plan for maximising the opportunities for newly qualified health care professionals in England. This sets out actions to deliver a demonstrable improvement in graduate employment. NHS employers are undertaking a review of progress against the action plan.

Officials in the Department, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly will continue to discuss issues affecting the national health service workforce.

Health Services: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the funding of NHS primary care trusts in Bedfordshire and Luton; and if he will make a statement. [155633]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers have answered letters from both the hon. Member for Luton, South (Margaret Moran) and the hon. Member for Luton, North (Kelvin Hopkins) about the allocations made to both Bedfordshire and Luton primary care trusts. There have also been a number of letters from the local patient and public involvement forums as well as members of the public on the same issue.

Horton Hospital: John Radcliffe Hospital

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what times patients were admitted to the Horton general hospital from the John Radcliffe hospital on *(a)* 2 May, *(b)* 3 May, *(c)* 24 May, *(d)* 18 June, *(e)* 2 July, *(f)* 5 July, *(g)* 7 July, *(h)* 13 July, *(i)* 18 July, *(j)* 19 July, *(k)* 20 July and *(l)* 21 July. [156171]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospitals in England rapid screen elective admissions. [156455]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Information on rapid methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) screening is not available centrally but we believe that it is used in a small number of hospitals.

However, on 4 October, in his interim report 'Our NHS, Our Future', Lord Darzi announced the introduction of MRSA screening for all elective admissions from next year, and for all emergency admissions as soon as practicable within the next three years.

Incontinence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish guidance on continence services as part of the planned high-level report on developing services for older people with complex needs. [156217]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The key messages for developing services for older people with complex needs were outlined in the National Clinical Director for Older People's reconfiguration report "A Recipe for Care" published in January of this year. There are no plans to issue further guidance on continence services but the National Clinical Director continues to advise Ministers on developing services for older people with complex needs and will continue to publish evidence-based information to support service development.

The management of continence is a key issue for the care of older people, as highlighted in Standard 2 of the National Service Framework for Older People and is one of the conditions for which early intervention is recommended, as outlined in "A Recipe for Care".

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the results of the second survey of continence care for older people undertaken by the Royal College of Physicians. [156219]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no assessment of the results of the second survey of continence care undertaken by the Royal College of Physicians.

Incontinence: Children

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specific measures are in place to deliver an incontinence service for younger people and disabled children. [156215]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The assessment of paediatric continence services is for local primary care trusts (PCTs), with a view to compliance with standard six of the national service framework for children. This standard includes a specific section on paediatric incontinence. The provision of continence services for younger people and disabled children is the responsibility of local PCTs, with a view to compliance with standard six of the national service framework for children. This standard includes a specific section on paediatric incontinence.

Incontinence: Home Care Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to carry out a review of the impact on elderly people of changes to the home delivery service of incontinence products; [156216]

(2) how many health authorities provide an integrated incontinence service; [156218]

(3) what powers are available to the Government to oblige health bodies to comply with the guidelines contained in Good Practice in Continence Services; and whether sanctions are available for non-compliance; [156220]

(4) whether the Government plans to carry out research to ascertain how many people suffer from incontinence, broken down by *(a)* the age and sex of those affected and *(b)* the form of incontinence. [156222]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to carry out research into the number of people living with incontinence.

Information on the number of strategic health authorities (SHAs) proving an integrated continence service is not collected centrally.

We currently have no plans to review the impact on older people of the changes to the home delivery service of continence products.

Health bodies are expected to have regard for the guidance contained in the document "Good Practice in Continence Services". SHAs have a duty to ensure that primary care trusts provide acceptable continence services. The Healthcare Commission may intervene where health bodies fail to provide an adequate level of service.

Maternity Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 176W, on maternity services, on what evidential basis the figure for live births in England in 2006 was estimated; and what percentage change this figure represented from live births in England in 2005. [154274]

Ann Keen: In 2005 there were 613,028 live births in England. In 2006 there were 635,748 live births. This was a 3.7 per cent. increase on live births in England in 2005. The figure for live births in the original reply was for England and Wales whereas these figures are England only. This information is given in the table. Table 6 of the "Office for National Statistics Births (Provisional), Selected Background Data, England and Wales" and is published on the ONS website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Table_6_Area_Health.xls

The figure for the number of live births in England 2006 comes from the details collected when births are registered. Registering a birth is a legal requirement and must be done within 42 days of the birth. Births to residents of England which are registered elsewhere are excluded, while births registered in England whose usual residence is elsewhere, are included.

Table 6: live births by health area of usual residence of mother, numbers, general fertility rates and total fertility rates, 2006—England and Wales, Government Office Regions (within England), and health authorities/boards[1]

Area of usual residence	*Live births*	*GFR*[2]	*TFR*[3]
England and Wales	669,601	60.2	1.86
England	635,748	60.3	1.86
North East	29,184	56.5	1.80
North East	29,184	56.5	1.80
North West	84,155	60.0	1.90
North West	84,155	60.0	1.90
Yorkshire and the Humber	62,955	59.4	1.86
Yorkshire and the Humber	62,955	59.4	1.86
East Midlands	50,717	57.4	1.83
East Midlands	50,717	57.4	1.83
West Midlands	67,688	62.5	1.97
West Midlands	67,688	62.5	1.97
East	66,870	59.9	1.88
East of England	66,870	59.9	1.88
London	120,898	65.8	1.85
London	120,898	65.8	1.85
South East	98,566	59.2	1.85
South East Coast	49,163	59.0	1.86
South Central	49,403	59.4	1.83
South West	54,715	56.1	1.80
South West	54,715	56.1	1.80
Wales	33,628	58.1	1.86
Anglesey	697	58.2	1.92
Gwynedd	1,331	60.3	1.91
Conwy	1,149	62.2	2.13
Denbighshire	989	58.2	1.94
Flintshire	1,719	58.9	1.93
Wrexham	1,597	61.7	1.96
Powys Teaching	1,222	57.3	2.02
Ceredigion	590	39.3	1.48
Pembrokeshire	1,278	63.1	2.18
Carmarthenshire	1,887	58.9	1.95
Swansea	2,543	56.2	1.79
Neath Port Talbot	1,515	58.4	1.92
Bridgend	1,526	59.1	1.96
Vale of Glamorgan	1,360	57.3	1.90
Cardiff	4,216	55.2	1.69
Rhondda Cynon Taff Teaching	2,778	58.1	1.81
Merthyr Tydfil	692	62.2	2.06
Caerphilly Teaching	2,167	63.1	2.01
Blaenau Gwent	770	55.8	1.86
Torfaen	1,069	60.8	1.99
Monmouthshire	854	56.4	2.00
Newport	1,679	58.9	1.93

Table 6: live births by health area of usual residence of mother, numbers, general fertility rates and total fertility rates, 2006—England and Wales, Government Office Regions (within England), and health authorities/boards[1]

Area of usual residence	*Live births*	*GFR*[2]	*TFR*[3]
Normal residence outside England and Wales	225	—	—

[1] Strategic health authorities in England and local health boards in Wales.
[2] The general fertility rate (GFR) is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44.
[3] The total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of children that would be born per woman if women experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.

Midwives: Pay

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on progress on implementing the pay rise for midwives payable in financial year 2007-08. [154476]

Ann Keen: Discussions continue between the Department, the NHS Employers organisation and the national health service unions about this year's pay award. We are hopeful the outcome from these talks will enable the award to be implemented shortly.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the implementation of the Musculoskeletal Services Framework as a method of reducing *(a)* long-term sickness and *(b)* the number of people claiming incapacity benefit. [154697]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any discussions between departmental officials and the Department for Work and Pensions on the implementation of the musculoskeletal services framework as a method of reducing long-term sickness and the number of people claiming incapacity benefit.

The framework was published as good practice guidance and it is for local organisations to decide how best to implement it.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information the National Clinical and Health Outcomes Database captures on musculoskeletal system problems; and how much expenditure this covers within that category of expenditure within the National Programme Budgeting Database. [154698]

Ann Keen: The clinical and health outcomes knowledge base contains comparative data from over 700 health and local government organisations. Databases capturing information on musculoskeletal problems include:

The United Kingdom pain database;
The national spinal injuries centre medical research database,
The national joint registry;
Norfolk arthritis register;
National total hip replacement outcomes study; and
Trent and North West arthroplasty registers.

Information on the expenditure covered by these databases is not available.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to extend the clinical and health outcomes data collected in relation to musculoskeletal system problems (excluding trauma). [154783]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any specific plans to extend the clinical and health outcomes data collected in relation to musculoskeletal problems.

NHS: Alcoholic Drinks

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff were given time off for treatment for either alcohol or drug abuse in each of the last five years. [156672]

Ann Keen: Data are not collected centrally on how many national health service staff are given time off for treatment for either alcohol or drug abuse. It is the responsibility of NHS employers to support their staff with any health related problems, ensuring that patient safety is also taken into consideration.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the annual survey of NHS information management and technology expenditure is expected to be published. [155864]

Mr. Bradshaw: Full results and analysis from the 2006 survey were published in January 2007. A copy of the survey results has been placed in the House Library and can also be found online at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/resources/funding.

Information from the 2007 survey is expected to be published in January 2008.

NHS: Internet

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total set-up costs were for the Our NHS, Our Future consultation website; what was the total cost to his Department of the COI Communications video presented via the website; and what ongoing costs will be incurred by his Department for the upkeep of the website. [156389]

Ann Keen: The success of the review depends on good communication and the involvement of patients, public and staff. The set-up costs of the communications website are expected to total around £6,000, and the film about £20,000. The ongoing costs of the upkeep of the website will relate to the content as it develops over the course of the review.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government are taking to increase the number of people on the organ donor register; [154268]

(2) how many people were on the organ donor register in each of the last 10 years; [154269]

(3) what proportion of families refused consent to donate relatives' organs in the case of *(a)* all deaths, *(b)* deaths where the individual was on the organ donor register and *(c)* deaths where the individual was not on the organ donor register in the latest period for which figures are available. [154270]

Ann Keen: The number on the organ donor register in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

	Added in year	*Million Total at end*
1994	0.14	0.14
1995	2.21	2.35
1996	1.39	3.74
1997	0.92	4.66
1998	0.87	5.53
1999	1.51	7.04
2000	1.23	8.27
2001	0.74	9.01
2002	1.08	10.09
2003	0.87	10.96
2004	0.96	11.92
2005	1.01	12.93
2006	1.04	13.97

Information on family refusal is only collected in the case of deceased potential heartbeating donors for whom solid organ donation was considered and whose family were approached for consent to donation.

In these cases, the overall refusal rate was 39.9 per cent. In cases whereby the potential donor was known to be on the organ donor register, the family refusal rate was 6.5 per cent. In cases where it was known that the potential donor was not on the organ donor register, the family refusal rate was 36.6 per cent.

The Department launched "Saving Lives, Valuing Donors: A Transplant Framework for England" in 2003 and the National Service Framework for Renal Services in 2004. These set out the Department's key aims for organ and tissue transplantation over the following 10 years. Government investment in hospital-based funding has helped increase donor rates and an organ donor taskforce will report to Ministers in autumn 2007 on how organ donor rates can be further improved. Following the publication of the chief medical officer's annual report in July, the taskforce will also examine the potential impact on organ donation of introducing an 'opt out' or presumed consent scheme.

Paediatrics: Foreign Workers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many international medical graduates were excluded from applying for paediatrics because they did not have highly skilled migrant programme status on 5 February 2007. [154796]

Ann Keen: No candidates have been excluded from applying for programmes in the specialty training recruitment process because they were not on the highly skilled migrant programme on February 2007.

However the applications of applicants who do not meet the right to work criteria should only be considered if there are no suitable United Kingdom or European economic area applicants.

Paediatrics: Training

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of total training posts in paediatrics in England have been filled with junior doctors in training programmes for *(a)* paediatricians and *(b)* general practice; [154794]

(2) what proportion of paediatric training posts were unfilled on *(a)* 26 July and *(b)* 8 October 2007. [154795]

Ann Keen: The answer is as follows:

89 per cent. of posts in paediatrics have been filled as at 26 July 2007.

91 per cent. of posts in paediatrics have been filled as at 2 September 2007.

100 per cent. of posts in general practice have been filled.

Round two is still ongoing.

The proportion of paediatric training posts that will be unfilled at 8 October 2007 is not available yet.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: Agency Nurses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on agency nurses providing temporary cover in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [154762]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Information on how much was spent on agency nurses at Peterborough hospital prior to the trust attaining foundation trust status are shown in the following table.

Non-NHS staff (agency, etc.) (by national health service classification) salaries and wages—nursing, midwifery and health visiting

Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust/Peterborough and Stamford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*Expenditure £*
1997-98	164,803
1998-99	200,280
1999-2000	449,683
2000-01	451,792
2001-02	208,525
2002-03	444,028
2003-04	1,626,075

Source:
Trust Financial Returns 1997-98 to 2003-04

Information relating to staffing costs is no longer held centrally in view of the trust achieving NHS foundation trust status from 1 April 2004. These data can be obtained by contacting the chair of the trust.

Secure Psychiatric Units

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether there is sufficient capacity in existing regional medium secure units to meet the need for such places in each region; in which regions there is an assessed shortfall; what the extent is of the shortfall in each case; and what plans are in place to address the shortfall. [156082]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on capacity for medium secure services are not routinely collected by the Department. The Department works to support local commissioners, as it is the responsibility of local commissioners to assess service needs in their area and plan accordingly. A capacity review of high and medium secure services was completed in January 2006 in order to inform policy on this issue and to help support commissioners. This capacity review took into consideration historical utilisation, changing legislation (e.g. draft Mental Health Bill and public protection orders), court sentencing trends, prison transfers and the needs of different patient groups (e.g. women, learning disabled men, patients with dangerous and severe personality disorder and deaf patients).

The review concluded that the need for medium secure capacity was gradually rising and robust local commissioning plans were necessary to ensure that there was strategic planning on a regional basis to deliver additional medium secure capacity in a co-ordinated way and to ensure that commissioning delivered good value for money. As at January 2006 when the review took place, there were 29 national health service medium secure units providing around 1,972 beds, with a further 1,500 beds provided by the independent sector. This has now increased and there are 32 NHS medium secure units.

The capacity review set out three projections for increases in medium secure capacity, based on variations in trends. The low projections were the lowest capacity increase likely and the high projections were the highest capacity increase likely. The medium projections were the most likely and, in subsequent discussions with stakeholders, the medium projections were thought to be reasonable. An extract from the review with a breakdown of capacity and projections by catchment areas is shown in the following tables. In total, the medium projections in the capacity review predicted an increase in capacity of 614 beds for men and 85 beds for women between 2005-06 and 2010-11, so a total of 699 beds. The NHS is on course to exceed this projected increase in capacity in medium secure services, as long as outlined local plans are followed.

The NHS have been working on local commissioning plans to ensure strategic planning on a regional basis. These local commissioning plans are under constant review by local commissioners and are updated to take account of changing local circumstances.

Extract from the capacity review showing estimated projected capacity requirements for medium secure services:

The following tables show total patient and bed numbers for 2005-06 to 2010-11 broken down by catchment group.

Male patients

	2005-06	*End 2010-11*		
Catchment group	*Baseline*	*Lower*	*Middle*	*Higher*
East Midlands and South Yorks	166	197	223	311
Eastern	211	214	235	293
London	727	828	906	1,155
North West	319	357	391	504
Northern	95	107	120	159
South	265	358	385	466
Wales	145	176	193	247
West Midlands	240	264	302	429
Yorkshire	158	180	185	203
Total—males	2,326	2,681	2,940	3,769

Female patients

	2005-06	*End 2010-11*		
Catchment group	*Baseline*	*Lower*	*Middle*	*Higher*
East Midlands and South Yorks	26	30	33	46
Eastern	48	53	53	55
London	94	116	122	137
North West	64	66	69	79
Northern	11	12	13	16
South	78	98	106	128
Wales	45	44	47	57
West Midlands	60	63	67	79
Yorkshire	29	28	30	32
Total—females	455	511	540	628

Smoking: Public Houses

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in revenues of public houses in England since the introduction of the ban on smoking in public places; and if he will make a statement. [156172]

Dawn Primarolo: While it is still too early to make any definitive statement about the economic impact of the law which came into operation on 1 July 2007 in England, based on our regulatory impact assessment (RIA) we are not expecting a significant positive or negative impact on the industry.

The RIA is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Tobacco/DH_076227

Social Services: Per Capita Costs

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the spending per head was on social services in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [156315]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There would be disproportionate costs incurred to produce this information across the whole time period requested. The following table shows the average per capita social services spending from 2000-01 to 2005-06 for England, the South West and Cornwall.

	England total	*South West*	*Cornwall*
2000-01	222	182	167
2001-02	236	195	184
2002-03	265	227	209
2003-04	301	265	256
2004-05	329	296	293
2005-06	348	315	305

Notes:
1. The table shows total net cost of social services per head of population, this is the total spend excluding capital charges minus income received from client contributions and other income which includes income from the national health service.
2. In 2003-04 the Supported People Grant was introduced which should be taken into consideration when making comparisons over time. The expenditure information is actual spend and has not been adjusted for inflation.

Teenage Pregnancy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is on course to meet the 2010 target for halving the conception rate of under 18s. [152182]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

2005 under-18 conception rate data—published by the Office for National Statistics in February 2007—showed that since the 1998 baseline year, the under-18 conception rate in England fell by 11.8 per cent., to its lowest level for over 20 years. The under-16 rate fell by 12.1 per cent. over the same period.

Notwithstanding these achievements, we need to see faster progress in order to achieve the challenging target of halving the under-18 conception rate by 2010. Consequently, we have issued guidance to local authorities and primary care trusts, setting out the key features of local strategies in areas where teenage conception rates have fallen fastest. All areas have been asked to review their strategies against this guidance, with a view to raising all areas' performance to the levels of the best. If all areas had performed as well as the top quartile, the national reduction would be 26 per cent.—more than twice the 11.8 per cent. reduction that has actually been achieved.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to improve the rate at which human organs become available for transplant. [154358]

Ann Keen: The Department launched 'Saving Lives, Valuing Donors: A Transplant Framework for England' in 2003 and the National Service Framework for Renal Services in 2004. These set out the Department's key aims for organ and tissue transplantation over the following 10 years. Government investment in hospital based funding has helped increase donor rates and an organ donor taskforce will report to Ministers in autumn 2007 on how organ donor rates can be further improved. Following the publication of the Chief Medical Officer's annual report in July, the taskforce will also examine the potential impact on organ donation of introducing an opt out or presumed consent scheme.

Warrington Hospital

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* outpatient appointments and *(b)* operations there were at Warrington hospital in each of the last five years. [147388]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The tables show the number of out-patient appointments and the number of finished consultant episodes with an operation at North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Out-patient appointments, North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust, all specialties, 2001-02 to 2006-07

	First attendances seen	*First attendances DNA*	*Subsequent attendances seen*	*Subsequent attendances DNA*	*Total appointments*
2002-03	69,574	6,593	188,985	24,112	289,264
2003-04	70,821	7,133	182,208	23,653	283,815
2004-05	70,297	5,452	168,622	21,455	265,826
2005-06	61,264	4,062	154,179	24,128	243,633
2006-07	59,147	3,894	157,285	20,658	240,984

Source:
Department of Health form QMOP and QM08

Count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with an Operation (OPCS-4 codes between A01-X59 or and (operation code not known)) as reported by the North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust (RWW). Note that this excludes procedures performed as outpatients.

NHS Hospitals England

Data year	*Count of FCEs with an operation*
2001-02	40,895
2002-03	39,433
2003-04	38,578
2004-05	31,312
2005-06	30,684

Notes:
1. The NHS Information Centre has investigated with North West Strategic Health Authority and North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust the reason for the reported decrease in the number of FCEs with an operation. The main cause of this decrease is that between 2002-03 and 2004-05 the trust stopped recoding certain procedures as being performed in a day case setting and started recording them as being performed in outpatients. Information is not available centrally on total procedures performed in outpatients. Data reclassification issues are being picked up by the Information Centre and the Audit Commission. From April 2007 onwards the trust will revert to counting this activity as a day case.
2. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
3. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE) with an Operation
A count of FCEs with an operation is the number of episodes with at least one coded procedure field. Please note that more procedures are carried out than finished consultant episodes with an operation. For example, patients undergoing a cataract operation would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single finished consultant episode.
4. Data Quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
5. Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Wheelchairs

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations he has received from wheelchair users groups in relation to proposed changes to wheelchair provision and other community equipment services; [155953]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to prepare for future demand for wheelchair provision; [155954]

(3) if he will make a statement on proposed changes to the provision of wheelchairs and other such equipment for the disabled, currently being considered. [155955]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Prime Minister launched the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme in June 2006 to work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a radical new model for delivery of community equipment and wheelchair services in England, which has users and carers at its heart. The intention was to look at the two services in parallel, but this has not been feasible.

Two potential models were developed for wheelchair services. However, without robust data it was not possible to make recommendations for the way forward. This is of particular concern in view of the successive reports over the last 20 years which have consistently argued for modernisation and investment in the wheelchair services. A further data gathering exercise was agreed, this will report back to the Ministers in December 2007.

The programme has engaged with users, carers and organisations that represent them since the beginning. This continues through the user representative group and a user and carer questionnaire.

We have been working with individual wheelchair users and carers of people who use wheelchairs as well as representatives of:

Action for Kids;

Muscular Dystrophy Campaign;

Multiple Sclerosis Society;

Spinal Injuries Association;

Em Power;

Whiz-Kidz;

Limbless Association;

National Forum Wheelchair User Groups; and

Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The questionnaire offers users and carers an opportunity to comment on the chairs they currently have and make suggestions for change. It is available on the CSED website at:

www.csed.csip.org.uk/workstreams/transforming-community-equipment-wheelchair-services/wheelchair-services/wheelchair-services-user-questionnaire.html

and through the third sector organisations both through their publications and websites. Wheelchair services are also helping reach those users and carers who are unable to access the web.

The analysis of the questionnaires will continue until the end of November and the results will feed into the development of the business case.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class flights in the last 12 months. [153286]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2048-49W. Information relating to Ministers overseas travel for 2006-07 was published on 25 July 2007 and is available in the Libraries of the Houses for the reference of Members.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the *(a)* purpose and (b) cost was of each payment by the Cabinet Office to Opinion Leader Research in 2005-06; [146862]

(2) what the *(a)* amount and *(b)* purpose was of each payment made by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in the last 12 months; [147031]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1038W, how much his Department has paid to Opinion Leader Research since 1997. [147040]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office made three payments to Opinion Leader Research in 2005-06; for £14,100, £15,098.02 and £32,900.

These payments were made by the Office of Public Sector Reform for the

"Provision of services to deliver two Policy Collaborative events to collate views of victims of volume crime and gain an understanding of what victims of volume crime want from the criminal justice system and compare their perceptions of a 'quality service' with existing plans to reform the criminal justice system".

Since 1997, the Cabinet Office has made 17 payments to Opinion Leader Research at a total value of £194,000. All contracts were awarded following a competitively tendered process. None of these payments were made in the past 12 months.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) to which periodicals his Department subscribes; [153289]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months; [153290]

(3) what magazines, newspapers and periodicals his Department subscribed to before 27 June; and which one his Department has subscribed to since that date. [153530]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153283]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has not had any redundancies in the last 12 months.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153294]

Gillian Merron: This information is only available at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153288]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has not incurred any Industrial (Employment) Tribunal costs in the last 12 months.

Departments: Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 901-02W, on departments' vacancies, whether the Government Communication Network website previously listed on its public website jobs for Government communicators and other civil servants that were not open to the public. [153638]

Edward Miliband: The Government Communication Network website only ever listed jobs which were open to the public on the public part of the website. Vacancies which were only open to Government communicators and other civil servants were listed on the password protected part of the site—which was only open to civil servants. Therefore there has been no change to what job vacancies members of the public can see.

Emergencies: Facilities

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* bowsers and *(b)* portaloos the public sector has access to for utilising in a national emergency situation; whether there are plans to increase those numbers; and if he will make a statement. [154345]

Edward Miliband: The Public sector does not have access to a specific number of bowsers and portaloos but each water company holds a stock of emergency equipment. Mutual aid arrangements exist between water companies to provide bowsers and other equipment to a water company that is dealing with an emergency. These arrangements can be further augmented, if necessary, with equipment from the public and private sectors. Portaloos and other sanitary equipment can be sourced by a variety of means including local authorities and private contractors when necessary.

Capability in these areas can be further increased by requesting assistance through established mutual aid arrangements with EU partners.

The review announced by Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 12 July will consider whether or not the existing arrangements for the provision of such items are adequate and make recommendations for improvement where necessary.

FutureBuilders England

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was of redesigning the FutureBuilders logo. [154604]

Phil Hope: The redesign of the Futurebuilders logo cost £6,500. The redesign was part of a wider strategy by Futurebuilders England to improve brand awareness and understanding of the fund to its key audiences. It was launched by Futurebuilders England on 1 January 2007.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library all papers concerning the seminar at Downing Street in February 2002 to discuss the future of IT in the NHS. [155034]

Edward Miliband: It is not normal practice to place copies of the Prime Minister's internal working papers in the Library of the House.

Smith Institute

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what meetings Cabinet Office ministers have held with representatives of the Smith Institute since May 2005. [155628]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1100W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Constitutional Treaty

12. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the changes between the EU constitutional treaty and the proposed EU reform treaty are. [156135]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The constitutional treaty is now defunct. The Inter-Governmental Conference Mandate agreed by the June European Council states that

"The constitutional concept has been abandoned."

While all member states have moved away from the constitution, the UK has a specific treaty deal which means we have moved further than anyone else from the constitution.

15. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in negotiations in the intergovernmental conference on the proposed EU reform treaty. [156139]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The legal group producing the draft treaty finished their work on 3 October.

We believe that the UK red lines will be achieved and we are confident that we can persuade our European partners that this is the right deal for the UK and EU.

19. **Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government policy is on the conduct of a national referendum on the proposed treaty changing the constitutional arrangements of the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [156144]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK has only ever held one national referendum, which was in 1975. We will seek parliamentary ratification of this Reform Treaty. In doing so we shall adopt a similar approach to that adopted by the Governments of Tony Blair, Sir John Major and Baroness Thatcher.

Portugal: British Citizens

13. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met his Portuguese counterpart to discuss issues relating to British holiday-makers in that country. [156136]

Mr. Jim Murphy: UK Ministers have regular contacts with Portuguese counterparts to discuss a range of issues.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers also discuss consular specific cases with Portuguese Ministers when necessary.

Iran

14. **Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Iranian nuclear programme. [156137]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) today (UIN 156131).

Iraq

16. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Iraq. [156140]

Dr. Howells: Political progress, particularly on national reconciliation, is critical to improving the situation in Iraq. I welcome the agreements reached at the leaders' conference in Baghdad in August and the emphasis Prime Minister Maliki gave to reconciliation in his recent speech at the UN General Assembly. We are urging the Iraqis to maintain positive momentum and ensure practical follow-up.

Tibet

17. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure journalists have free access to Tibet. [156141]

Meg Munn: We welcome the regulations implemented by the Chinese Government on 1 January to relax restrictions on foreign journalists in China. At the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, the Chinese Government confirmed the regulations applied in Tibet. We are concerned, however, that like all visitors to Tibet, journalists must still seek permission to enter the region from the local authorities and will continue to raise this with China.

Zimbabwe

18. **Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Zimbabwe. [156142]

Meg Munn: The situation in Zimbabwe is appalling. That is why my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is clear he will not attend an EU-Africa summit in Europe with President Mugabe. That is also why we are working for change by giving up to £40 million in humanitarian aid a year; maintaining international pressure on the regime; and supporting those working in Zimbabwe for democratic change.

Middle East Peace Process

20. **Dr. Palmer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Middle East peace process. [156145]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Staffordshire (Sir Patrick Cormack) today (UIN156128).

21. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress made in the Middle East peace process. [156146]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Staffordshire (Sir Patrick Cormack) today (UIN156128).

UK and US Relations

22. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on the UK's special relationship with the US. [156147]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has a regular dialogue with his American

counterpart. As both my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have said repeatedly, our relationship with the United States will continue to be the single most important bilateral relationship for the United Kingdom. Our discussions with the US Administration take place within this very clear context.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment the Government have made of heroin and poppy production in areas of Afghanistan *(a)* not controlled by the Taliban and *(b)* under the control of the Allies; [156014]

(2) what recent assessment the Government have made of poppy and heroin production from the areas of Afghanistan under the control of the Taliban. [156015]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not carry out independent assessments of the heroin and poppy production in Afghanistan. Poppy cultivation figures are measured by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The figures do not take into account the control of land on which poppy is cultivated. Nor has there been a study defining locations of heroin laboratories on land inside or outside of government control. But there is a clear link between poppy cultivation and insecurity, shown by the fact that over 75 per cent. cultivation takes place in the least secure southern provinces. In the more secure central and northern regions, cultivation generally appears to be decreasing or stabilising. The number of "poppy free provinces" has increased from six in 2006 to 13 in 2007, demonstrating that where the integrated approach set out in the government of Afghanistan's national drug control strategy can be brought to bear, it is delivering results.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who represented the UK at the conference held in Afghanistan on 29 August 2007 on counternarcotics; whether there will be any change in the ISAF counternarcotic strategy as a result of the conference; and if he will make a statement. [156431]

Dr. Howells: The UK was represented at the 3rd National Counter Narcotics Conference in Kabul by our ambassador in Afghanistan, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles.

The International Security Assistance Force is providing increasing support to the Afghan Counter Narcotics effort. Recently this has included help with this year's pre-planting campaign and support to Afghan law enforcement and interdiction operations.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on associations between members of the Afghanistan parliament and al-Qaeda. [156013]

Dr. Howells: We have not received any reports and are not aware of any associations between members of the Afghan parliament and al-Qaeda.

Bermuda Housing Corporation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the outcome of the Metropolitan Police inquiry initiated by John Verveker, Governor of Bermuda, into the leak of Bermuda police documents relating to the Bermuda Housing Corporation. [155816]

Meg Munn: Two senior officers (one recently retired) from Kent Constabulary visited Bermuda in June 2007, at the request of the Commissioner of Police, to review the conduct of the Bermuda Police Service investigation into the leak of confidential police files. They concluded that the investigation was being managed in a competent and professional manner.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will appoint a senior United Kingdom police officer to conduct an inquiry into allegations of impropriety in the conduct of the Bermuda Housing Corporation's affairs. [155817]

Meg Munn: These allegations were fully investigated at the time by the appropriate authorities in Bermuda with support from New Scotland Yard.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the findings of the fraud squad investigation concluded in August 2004 into the Bermuda Housing Corporation. [155822]

Meg Munn: A thorough investigation, assisted by officers from New Scotland Yard, resulted in criminal proceedings leading to a custodial sentence.

Bermuda: Armed Forces

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent inspection of the Royal Bermuda Regiment has been conducted to ensure that deficiencies identified in the report submitted in November 2005 following the inspection conducted by Colonel Baxter have been remedied and his recommendations implemented; and if he will make a statement. [155804]

Meg Munn: Colonel Fairclough, Assistant Military Attache at our embassy in Washington, assessed the Bermuda Regiment's capability in November 2006. Good progress has been made on implementing recommendations from Colonel Baxter with regard to training and in particular on improved training for junior commanders. In terms of equipment replacement—namely vehicles, communications, weapons and boats—bids for funding have been submitted to the Bermuda government and are to be addressed over a five-year period.

Bermuda: Police

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response the Governor of Bermuda has made to the request of Senator Burch, Minister of Public Safety, on 14 August 2007 that he help address Bermuda's policing difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [156332]

Meg Munn: Under the Bermuda Constitution, the Governor has overall responsibility for the police. He has made it clear on several occasions that there will be no change in this. The Governor discusses policing issues on a regular basis with both the Premier and the Minister of Public Safety.

Bermuda: Territorial Waters

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial contribution has been made by the Government towards the cost of law enforcement and national security in and around the territorial waters of Bermuda; and if he will make a statement. [156334]

Meg Munn: The security of the UK Overseas Territories is the responsibility of the Government. Consequently, Bermuda benefits from assistance provided by Regional Law Enforcement and Maritime Training Advisers funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Bermuda is also visited on a regular basis by Royal Navy ships. The Government of Bermuda, however, meets the cost of its own law enforcement, including within its territorial waters.

British Council: Information Officers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many press officers are employed by the British Council. [154634]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The British Council has two press officers working in London. In addition there are two members of staff who spend half their time on press office work.

In most of the 110 countries where the British Council operates, there is a member of staff who has responsibility for press office work although, particularly in smaller operations, this only forms part of their duties.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which dates over the past three years governors of overseas territories who were retiring from the Diplomatic Service have despatched valedictory e-grams or telegrams; and if he will make a statement. [155809]

Meg Munn: The Governors of the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Falkland Islands have retired from the Diplomatic Service in the past three years. Their valedictory e-grams were despatched on 26 October 2005, 7 April 2006 and 15 August 2006.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the GDP per head of population is in *(a)* pounds sterling and *(b)* US dollars of each of the UK overseas territories, listed in descending order of population size. [155812]

Meg Munn: Gross domestic product (GDP) per head calculations rely on information about economic activity (GDP) and population. All GDP calculations are made by the overseas territories (OTs), who employ either specialised statisticians or analysts. The accuracy of GDP depends on the analytical input that such small offices are able to devote to calculating it. Population data are based on a census, which is usually carried out every few years, as in the United Kingdom. Population estimates have to be made for intermediate years.

Therefore GDP per capita figures will vary in accuracy, and it is not unusual for estimates to be revised after they have been published. The varying populations of the OTs compound this—a small change in population can have a bigger effect on GDP per capita.

The following table lists the OTs best estimates of GDP per capita for 2005 (or 2004 in the case of the Falkland Islands).

	Population	*GDP per head (sterling)*	*GDP per head ($US)*
Bermuda	63,571	42,636	76,403
Cayman Islands	48,353	27,179	48,704
Turks and Caicos Islands	30,602	8,752	15,683
Gibraltar	28,779	20,511	36,756
British Virgin Islands	27,000	21,205	38,000
Anguilla	13,638	5,419	9,711
Montserrat	4,785	4,295	7,696
St. Helena	4,100	3,137	5,622
Falkland Islands	2,955	25,350	46,124
Pitcairn Islands	45	1,889	3,385

These figures are based on £/$US exchange rate at 1 July in the relevant year. The St. Helena figure does not include the dependencies of Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, for which data are not available.

The other OTs—British Indian Ocean Territory, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Sovereign Base areas on Cyprus, and the British Antarctic Territory—have no settled populations.

Burma

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UN Secretary-General regarding Burma. [155719]

Meg Munn: We have kept in regular contact with the UN Secretary-General and his staff during the recent events in Burma. My right hon. Friend the Prime

Minister wrote to the UN Secretary-General on 25 September and spoke to him on 26 September. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Burma with the UN Secretary-General on 28 September.

Burma: Armed Forces

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate the UK Government have made of the number of forcibly conscripted child soldiers in the Burma Army; and what reports he has received on the conditions in which they are held; [155672]

(2) what steps he has taken to raise the issue of the forced conscription of child soldiers with the Burmese regime. [155673]

Meg Munn: We receive regular reports about forced recruitment and the use and ill treatment of child soldiers in Burma. We are unable to estimate the number of forcibly recruited soldiers.

On 2 October, the Human Rights Council (HRC) passed a resolution sponsored by the EU, with the strong support of the UK, which expressed deep concern about the situation in Burma. In our statement to the HRC, we drew attention to the regime's persistent violations of human rights, including the use of child soldiers.

We have repeatedly raised the issue with the Burmese regime. My right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney), the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, raised our concerns with the Burmese Foreign Minister in Hamburg on 28 May.

Our ambassador in Rangoon takes every opportunity to raise human rights with the regime, most recently when he met the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister and the Burmese Minister for Labour on 25 September.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict following his visit to Burma. [155674]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms Coomaraswamy, following her visit to Burma. However, Ms Coomaraswamy did meet our ambassador in Rangoon during her visit.

Burma: Defence Equipment

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the sale of military helicopters to Burma by India containing parts manufactured or designed by *(a)* EU and *(b)* UK companies. [154330]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the report published by non-governmental organisations saying that the Indian Government is planning to transfer advanced light helicopters to Burma.

On 27 July, the EU Troika in New Delhi delivered a demarche on the Indian Government about the reported transfer of the helicopters to Burma. They reminded the Indian Government of the long-standing common position on Burma, which includes an arms embargo, and the EU's deep concern about the situation there. The Indian Government reiterated that no such deal was under consideration.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the National Convention and constitution drafting process in Burma. [155717]

Meg Munn: We have repeatedly called on the regime to make progress towards genuine national reconciliation by involving all political and ethnic groups in the National Convention process. Many of these groups did not participate in the National Convention and have not been consulted on the constitutional drafting process. We therefore believe the process lacks all credibility.

Burma: Religious Freedom

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Belief on violations of religious freedom against Christians, Muslims and Buddhists in Burma. [155718]

Meg Munn: There are severe restrictions on the freedom of all religions in Burma, including towards members of the majority Buddhist faith, particularly if they are perceived as anti-government. We condemn all instances where individuals face persecution or discrimination because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

We have had no discussions with the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Belief about Burma.

We regularly raise our concerns about human rights in Burma with the regime and in international forums. The UN Secretary-General discussed Burma with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 26 September and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 28 September.

On 2 October, the Human Rights Council (HRC) passed a strongly worded resolution sponsored by the EU, with the full support of the UK, which expressed deep concern about the situation in Burma. In our statement to the HRC, we drew attention to the regime's violations, including restrictions on the freedom of religion.

Chad

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his European counterparts on a European Union military mission to Chad during the meeting of Foreign Ministers in Viana do Castelo, Portugal, 7 to 8 September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [156603]

Meg Munn: The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 July approved a European Security and Defence Policy mission to Chad as a bridging force until the UN itself is able to deploy a peacekeeping mission there. The UK strongly endorsed this proposed deployment. The meeting of Foreign Ministers in Viana do Castelo, Portugal, on 7 to 8 September, discussed the implementation of this decision.

On 25 September the UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1778, which authorised the deployment of an EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic and approved a UN multi-dimensional mission to operate in co-operation with the EU force. The UK hopes that both the EU mission and the UN multi-dimensional mission will be able to deploy before the end of the year.

Chad: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that the EU peacekeeping force in Chad will have a mandate to protect internally displaced people within Chad as well as refugees from Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [153880]

Meg Munn: On 25 September the UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1778, which authorises the deployment of a European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) force to Chad and the Central African Republic and approves a UN multi-dimensional mission to operate in co-operation with the ESDP force.

As stated in UNSCR 1778, the ESDP force's 12 month mandate is to contribute to protecting refugees and displaced persons in eastern Chad, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and contribute to protecting the UN operation. The UN operation is intended to build the capacity of the Chadian police to protect refugees from Darfur and the Central African Republic and internally displaced persons and help create a more secure environment in eastern Chad. The overall aim of the joint operation is to create the conditions necessary for voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will urge the Chinese Government to release unconditionally Pastor Hua Huiqi and his mother Ms Shuang Shuying from detention. [154406]

Meg Munn: Pastor Hua Huiqi was released in July this year after serving his six-month sentence. We raised the case of Shuang Shuying, through the EU, at the most recent round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, which was held in Berlin in May. We continue to monitor her case.

China: Sudan

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work is being undertaken with the People's Republic of China to combat the conflict in Darfur. [155941]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have asked their Chinese counterparts to use their influence in Sudan in support of the UN and AfricanUnion efforts to resolve the Darfur conflict, and to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between north and south Sudan. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, reinforced this message during his visit to China on 28-29 August when he said that

"we want China to be a major international player in the world; there is no alternative for the world but to have a responsible China sitting at the global table, helping to solve global issues".

We are working with Chinese officials on preparations for the peace talks for Darfur planned to start on 27 October and on early recovery efforts in Darfur.

Defence Attache Network

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK's relationship with those countries affected by the review of the Defence Attache Network; and what responses he has received from such countries on the review. [155742]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government continue to place a high value on their international defence relations. In announcing the results of the Defence Attaché review, my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary made clear in his written ministerial statement on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 125WS our belief that this rebalancing of resources, which involves strengthening our representation in some countries and reducing it in others, including through non-resident accreditation, will ensure a network which is effective and relevant to our international interests. We have not received any formal responses from countries affected by this review.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial year *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156679]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No accounts directions were issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in these financial years.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155869]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Annual expenditure on external consultants is published in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Department's annual reports, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. The two most recent annual reports also contain details of expenditure on the top five consultancy suppliers. The vast majority of work undertaken for the FCO by consultants is associated with its major Information Communication Technology and Estate construction programmes.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), the then Minister for Europe gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1474W and the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the then Foreign Secretary gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 893-94W.

Diplomatic Relations: Members

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* peers have been appointed special envoys to other nations since 1997. [156125]

Dr. Howells: Special representatives are appointed to show commitment and to drive progress on particular issues, or to gain access which would not otherwise be forthcoming. No central record of such appointments since 1997 is held. However, I understand that five right hon. and hon. Members and four Peers have been appointed as either special representatives or special envoys to other nations since 1997.

Entry Clearances

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa application processing centres have been outsourced; and what proportion of such applications are dealt with by such centres. [156486]

Dr. Howells: As at the end of September 2007, there were 85 outsourced Visa Application Centres. In September 2007, 57 per cent. of global UK visa applications were received and processed in Visa Application Centres.

EU Reform: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the likely impact of the EU Reform Treaty on UK military operations. [154255]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The current arrangements for UK military operations will not be affected by the EU Reform Treaty. The Treaty maintains the inter-governmental nature of the European Security and Defence Policy. It will not affect the UK's ability to undertake military operations, whether national or in a multilateral framework. The UK will continue to make forces available for EU-led operations on a voluntary and case-by-case basis. The launch of any EU operation requires unanimity among member states, therefore UK consent and any decision to deploy UK troops for an EU-led operation rests with the Government.

EU Reform: Climate Change

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of how changes to qualified majority voting in the European reform treaty would affect the ability of the UK and the EU to promote the environment and fight climate change. [156138]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Energy policy will move to qualified majority voting (QMV) in the reform treaty, making it easier to liberalise energy markets, and improve energy security. More open markets will promote energy efficiency and allow consumers greater choice—which should reward green technologies.

This will make it easier to achieve targets agreed at the spring European Council.

Energy is an example of where the reform treaty moves to QMV can unlock decision-making in Britain's interests.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government will seek any modifications to the revised European Constitution. [154586]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2006W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in how many policy areas vetoes will be given up by the UK if the constitutional treaty comes into force; and what those areas are. [156473]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1468-69W.

European Union: UK Delegation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the office of the UK Permanent Representative to the EU, Strasbourg and UK Delegation to the Council of Europe Strasbourg do not share offices; and what the *(a)* cost of each office, *(b)* numbers of staff in each office and *(c)* floor space of each office was in the latest period for which figures are available. [156009]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK Permanent Representation to the EU does not have an office in Strasbourg. The office space used by UK officials is owned by the European Parliament and this is made available to the UK at no cost.

The UK Delegation to the Council of Europe occupies a building of 327 square metres in a residential area of Strasbourg. The office staff consists of five UK based staff and three locally recruited full-time staff plus one

part time. The rental of the office in financial year (FY) 2006-07 was £31,181. The office running costs (utilities, rates, repairs and refurbishments) were £33,199 in FY 2006-07.

Iraq: Casualties

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi *(a)* child and *(b)* adult civilian casualties there have been since March 2003. [156671]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not collate figures for civilian casualties in Iraq. The Government of Iraq is best placed to monitor the numbers of Iraqi civilian casualties, but we continue to believe that there are no comprehensive or reliable figures for deaths since March 2003 as estimates vary according to the method of collection.

Iraq: Oil

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK Government have made to the Iraqi government on the proposed Iraqi oil law; what advice has been given in relation to the partners with whom the Iraqi government should deal and the terms on which it should do so; and if he will make a statement. [156703]

Dr. Howells: We have encouraged the Iraqi government to consider a full range of options in formulating the hydrocarbons law and to consult widely. We have made no representations on specific structures or production contracts nor have we provided advice on whom the Iraqi government should deal with.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* coalition forces and *(b)* the international community are to be involved in the investigation by the Iraqi authorities into neglect and abuse of children in Iraqi orphanages and other institutions; and if he will make a statement. [156086]

Dr. Howells: The Government are aware of US military reports in June that they discovered a number of abused and neglected children at an Iraqi orphanage in Baghdad. In response to these reports, the Iraqi Prime Minister announced an Iraqi Government investigation into the conditions at the orphanage. The UK has had no direct involvement in this investigation, nor are we aware of direct coalition or wider international involvement.

The UK is committed to supporting the Government of Iraq in its efforts to strengthen respect for human rights, with a particular focus on protecting the rights of the most vulnerable groups in society. In a country emerging from over three decades of dictatorship and which currently faces continued violence, this process will take time. We are working with the Government of Iraq and international partners to develop the infrastructure essential for promoting and protecting human rights, including a legislative framework and oversight bodies as well as the judiciary, courts, and independent civil society organisations. This will help ensure that the human rights of all Iraqis, including vulnerable groups such as women, children and minorities, are protected in the future.

Irian Jaya

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to facilitate dialogue between the Indonesian government and representatives of the West Papuan Freedom Movement; [156434]

(2) what assessment he has made of the prison conditions of West Papua independence campaigners, with particular reference to *(a)* Filep Karma and *(b)* Yusak Pakage; [156459]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the situation in West Papua; [156466]

(4) what representations he has made to the Government of Indonesia on the humanitarian situation in West Papua; [156467]

(5) what recent discussions he has had with the British Embassy in Jakarta on the situation in West Papua; [156468]

(6) what discussions he has had with the UN Special Representative, Hina Jilani, following her recent visit to West Papua; and what recent reports he has received from the UK Mission to the UN following the visit; [156469]

(7) what assessment he has made of the situation for environmental activists in West Papua. [156471]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made representations about Papua to the Government of Indonesia.

Our embassy in Jakarta regularly discusses Papua with the Indonesian authorities and pushes for greater EU engagement on human rights issues including those related to Papua. The human rights situation in Indonesia has improved considerably in recent years and we assess that President Yudhoyono is sincere in his attempts to push through reforms, including in the security sector. The current peace process in Aceh is an indication of his willingness to be flexible in trying to address some of the long-running conflicts in Indonesia, and success here will make it easier for him to address the Papuan question effectively.

We believe that the best way to resolve the complex issues in Papua is through promoting peaceful dialogue between Papuan groups and the Indonesian government. We are in contact with Papuan activist groups in the UK and encourage dialogue between them and the Government of Indonesia.

We are not aware of any specific issues concerning environmental activists in Papua.

Officials from our embassy in Jakarta have raised the cases of Filip Karma and Yusak Pakage with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their defence lawyer told embassy officials that prison conditions were adequate and the two men were treated reasonably.

We have urged the Government of Indonesia to uphold the rights guaranteed through the International Conventions on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by Indonesia in September 2005.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is aware of the visit to Indonesia by UN Special Representative, Hina Jilani, but has had no direct discussion with her on the issue of Papua. Ms Jilani has received no reports from the UK Mission to the UN following her visit.

The UK, with our EU partners, is working towards greater engagement with the Indonesian government in support of human rights defenders. The EU presidency is in the process of discussing the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and hopes to work with them on this important issue in the near future.

North Korea: Political Prisoners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his North Korean counterpart on prisoners being held in prison camps for their *(a)* political and *(b)* religious beliefs. [155975]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials raise human rights issues—including arbitrary detention of prisoners for political and/or religious reasons—with members of the North Korean government at every reasonable opportunity. We do so through our embassy in Pyongyang and through contact with the North Korean embassy in London, as well as through the EU and UN.

We and EU partners have also been instrumental in creating—and retaining—the position of UN Special Rapporteur on Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) human rights, and have sponsored a number of UN resolutions calling on the North Korean government to honour its UN commitments on human rights. The UN has also lobbied the government on specific individuals' cases.

The Government will continue to press the North Korean authorities on human rights abuses at every opportunity, urging them in particular to cooperate with UN mechanisms and to allow international monitors access to the country to verify or disprove reports of human rights abuses. It is deeply frustrating that the DPRK government has not responded to these requests.

Northern Cyprus

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many official visits by members of the British High Commission in Cyprus to northern Cyprus were made in each of the last three years; and what reports were received by the Department in London following each such visit. [156207]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It would incur disproportionate cost to collate the information requested by my hon. Friend on the number of official visits from staff at our High Commission in Nicosia to northern Cyprus. However, the High Commission's operation in Cyprus covers the whole territory of the Republic of Cyprus, providing services and engaging with Cypriots on both sides of the Green Line on a daily basis. Reports of their discussions are reported to the Department as necessary.

Northern Cyprus: Churches

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a senior official from the British high commission in Cyprus last visited the Greek Cypriot churches and cemeteries in the villages of Patriki and Ayios Theodoros in the Karpas Peninsula; what reports were made and to whom after the last such visit; if he will make it his policy for such a visit to be conducted on a regular basis and reports published; and if he will make a statement. [156209]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our high commissioner in Nicosia last visited the Greek Cypriot community in the Karpas region on 22 June and reported to the Department. This included visiting the church in Ayios Theodoros and was part of a regular pattern of visits which supplement the UN's humanitarian and monitoring activity. Since the opening of the Green Line in April 2003, Greek Cypriots resident in the south have also been able to travel to the area.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what responsibilities the British Government have as one of the guarantor powers for Cyprus to seek to ensure the preservation of churches and cemeteries that belong to the Greek Cypriot community in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [156210]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty of Guarantee only relates to the independence, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Cyprus. However, we do call on the Turkish Cypriots to show sensitivity to Greek Cypriot churches and cemeteries in the north of Cyprus. Our high commissioner in Nicosia visited the Karpas region on 22 June and raised such issues with his Turkish Cypriot interlocutors.

Northern Cyprus: Property

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the advice given to British citizens seeking to purchase a property in northern Cyprus; what steps the Government have taken to promulgate that advice; and if he will make a statement. [156202]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Through Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Travel Advice, the Government offers comprehensive guidance on the risks involved in purchasing property in northern Cyprus. This advice is regularly updated to reflect developments. We also provide advice over the phone to members of the public calling both the FCO and our High Commission in Nicosia.

We believe that the difficult and complex issue of property is only likely to be fully resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement and we urge both sides

to engage constructively with the United Nations to enable settlement negotiations to start as soon as possible. In our contacts with the Turkish Cypriot leadership, we recognise the Turkish Cypriots' need for economic development in support of reunification. But we urge them to ensure that any property development which does take place does so in a manner that is both environmentally sustainable and does not complicate an eventual solution.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of properties *(a)* built and *(b)* under construction by property developers in northern Cyprus in each of the last five years which are available for purchase. [156204]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have not estimated the number of properties which have been built or which are under construction in northern Cyprus. However, significant property development in northern Cyprus has taken place over the last five years resulting in large numbers of new properties being built. We believe that the difficult and complex issue of property is only likely to be fully resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement and we urge both sides to engage constructively with the United Nations to enable settlement negotiations to start as soon as possible. In our contacts with the Turkish Cypriot leadership, we recognise the Turkish Cypriots' need for economic development in support of reunification. But we urge them to ensure that any property development which does take place does so in a manner that is both environmentally sustainable and does not complicate an eventual solution.

Occupied Territories: Peace Negotiations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of the Mecca agreement as a basis for peace between Israel and the Palestinians following the break down of the Palestinian Unity Government. [156344]

Dr. Howells: The Mecca agreement of 9 February 2007, was drawn up by Palestinian parties to end their political deadlock. The outcomes of the agreement were:

cessation of intra-Palestinian violence;

formation of a National Unity government;

reformation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; and

the need for political co-operation within the laws of the Palestinian National Authority.

The agreement was focused on intra-Palestinian relations and as such has no direct impact on Israeli-Palestinians relations. However, we welcome any progress towards a negotiated, lasting solution.

Pakistan: Taliban

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he is holding with the Pakistan Government to co-ordinate border control between Pakistan and Afghanistan to stop Taliban activists entering Afghanistan. [156297]

Dr. Howells: Afghanistan-Pakistan border security issues feature prominently in our dialogue with the Government of Pakistan at both ministerial and official levels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last raised the subject with Pakistan Foreign Minister Kasuri in Islamabad on 26 July.

Russia: CFE Treaty

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for Russia's suspension of its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [153754]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* With North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Allies, we have noted Russia's statement of its intention to suspend its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE treaty) from 12 December. We would regret any threat to the CFE regime from such unilateral action. We believe the concerns expressed by Russia would be addressed by entry into force of the adapted CFE treaty. We are pursuing constructive proposals for parallel action by Allies and Russia to overcome the outstanding issues related to ratification of that adapted treaty.

Sri Lanka

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to meet *(a)* the President and *(b)* the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. [155836]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to meet the President or Prime Minster of Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister may have an opportunity to meet President Rajapakse or Prime Minister Wickramanayake at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala, Uganda in November.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sri Lankan Government regarding human rights abuses in Sri Lanka. [155837]

Dr. Howells: We raise human rights issues regularly in our contact with the Government of Sri Lanka. Most recently, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, expressed our concern on 27 September during a bilateral meeting with the Sri Lankan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rohitha Bogollagama, in the margins of the UN General Assembly.

The situation in Sri Lanka was also highlighted by the UK and the EU at the 6th Human Rights Council in September. We look forward to the report of the visit to Sri Lanka by Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is due to take place later this month.

Sudan: Asylum

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Ethiopian and Eritrean asylum seekers and refugees at risk of being forcibly returned to their country of origin from Sudan following their detention in Khartoum in July. [153879]

Meg Munn: Amnesty International (AI) reported on 20 July the arrest and risk of forcible return of Ethiopian and Eritrean asylum seekers in Sudan. According to AI, many of those detained could be asylum seekers or recognised refugees.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been seeking access to, and intervene on the behalf of, refugees who have been detained by the Sudanese authorities. Some of these refugees were handed over to the Commissioner for Refugees in August, but 25 Ethiopians and Eritreans were reportedly sentenced to deportation and removed before UNHCR had a chance to appeal.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the treatment of refugees in Sudan, in particular those from Eritrea. [154565]

Meg Munn: According to reports from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), refugees arriving in Sudan undergo a refugee status determination process at one of the recognised refugee camps near Kassala in the border area with Eritrea. Refugees should remain in the camps and are not normally granted the right to travel from a designated area.

Sudanese law enforcement bodies carry out periodic round-ups of migrant workers whom they deport, although some of them have recognised refugee status. UNHCR has a legal team to attend cases where recognised refugees have been arrested.

Some of these refugees were handed over to the Commissioner for Refugees in August, but 25 Ethiopians and Eritreans were reportedly sentenced to deportation and removed before UNHCR had a chance to appeal.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Sudan about *(a)* the treatment of refugees and *(b)* abiding by UNHCR protocols and commitments. [154566]

Meg Munn: Ministers have not discussed the treatment of refugees with the government of Sudan.

However, officials from our embassy in Khartoum have raised the status of refugees in Sudan with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to whom we give strong support. As a result of UNHCR's lobbying, the government of Sudan has set up a committee to revise domestic legislation on asylum. We continue to monitor the progress of asylum law reform through UNHCR.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received that the government of Sudan has in the past month begun to move to return Eritrean refugees. [154568]

Meg Munn: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sudan reported in August that Ethiopians and Eritreans were arrested and detained in Khartoum and various towns in eastern Sudan and threatened with expulsion.

As a result of legal assistance from UNHCR, several individuals were handed over to UNHCR to determine their refugee status. But 25 Eritreans and Ethiopians were sentenced to deportation, which was carried out before UNHCR could intervene.

The UK supports UNHCR to ensure refugees are afforded protection and treated equitably in their countries of refuge according to international human rights law.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial and other support he is making available to resolve the problems in Darfur. [155863]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made resolution of the Darfur conflict a priority for the Government. In his joint initiative with French President Sarkozy, he offered further development assistance dependent on progress on security, cessation of hostilities, political process and humanitarian access.

Meanwhile, the UK is helping diplomatically, politically and financially.

The UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1769, which mandates the African Union (AU)/UN peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) for Darfur. UNAMID costs will be met through UN assessed contributions. The UK has committed £73 million to support the AU Mission (AMIS) in Darfur since it deployed in July 2004.

To support the political process, the UK has committed £2 million of funding since July 2006 to the AMIS Information Advisory Team which will support communication activities for the peace talks. We will also provide financial and technical support to the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team who are leading the peace process.

The UK, through the Department for International Development (DFID), is working with UN, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other partners to resource community-level peace and confidence-building activities to complement the political process. The UK has committed £2.18 million to a UN programme to address livelihoods and environmental challenges—key drivers of the conflict.

Finally, DFID's programme makes the UK the second largest bilateral donor to Sudan, spending some £145 million in humanitarian funding in Darfur since the start of the crisis in 2003. We also have a bilateral

programme with NGOs (£12 million per annum) to provide water, sanitation and health care to some of the four million people in need.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the African Union and UN have taken to ensure that rebel groups in Darfur receive training to develop the skills required to take part in peace process negotiations. [153881]

Meg Munn: The African Union-UN Joint Mediation Support Team (JMST) has developed a mediation plan and is appointing mediators who will support rebel groups in negotiations.

The UK and international partners are supporting the JMST's preparations for negotiations. The UK has given the JMST papers on lessons learned from previous peace talks, including the Comprehensive Peace Agreement security negotiations, and has recommended mediation experts.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to ensure participation of the people of eastern Sudan in the national executive, legislature, judiciary organs, civil service and other institutions and commissions at both national and state levels in accordance with Chapter 1 of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement; and what progress has been made in this regard. [153882]

Meg Munn: The government of Sudan has appointed Eastern Front (EF) representatives to posts including an assistant to the President, a presidential adviser and a Minister of State. The EF's candidates took up their positions in August. In June 2006, eight government members of the National Parliament resigned to make way for the EF Members of Parliament. EF representatives have also been appointed to state level governments both in the east and in Khartoum state.

The Civil Service Commission called for by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was only formed in August this year. The EF have not yet provided nominations to this and other CPA Commissions.

Our embassy in Khartoum discussed implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) with assistant to the President ,Musa Muhammad Ahmad of the EF, on 1 October. They made clear our support for the ESPA and the need to see both sides fully to implement its provisions, including those on power-sharing.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement has ensured transparency in appropriate sharing of financial resources across all states through the fiscal and financial allocation and monitoring commission. [153883]

Meg Munn: The Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement does not include any provisions on wealth sharing between Khartoum and the eastern states, although it has established a Reconstruction and Development Fund for Eastern Sudan.

Fiscal relations between the federal and state governments in Sudan are covered in the Wealth Sharing Protocol of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The UK monitors the implementation of the Protocol, and the activities of the Fiscal and Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission (FFAMC) set up to carry this out, through its participation in the Wealth Sharing Group of the CPA Assessment and Evaluation Commission.

The FFAMC proposed a revised formula for the allocation of revenue which was adopted for the 2007 federal budget. This new formula should result in the more equitable allocation of resources, although evidence to date shows that there are still some discrepancies between budgeted and actual transfers.

The UK continues to monitor the new arrangements for wealth sharing and to work with others, including the World Bank, to bring about fiscal reform across Sudan.

Ukraine: Entry Clearances

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what rationale supported the decision to require applications from Ukraine for settlement in the UK to be submitted by appointment only. [154508]

Dr. Howells: The visa section in Kiev took the decision to introduce an appointment system for settlement visa applications in order to manage more effectively the number of applications received per day.

The number of settlement visa appointments has been set at seven per day from 1 October. This will improve customer service by providing pre-arranged appointment times for applicants who will no longer be subject to unpredictable waiting times at the visa section.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what minimum notice period may be given of appointments to submit applications for settlement in the UK from Ukraine. [154509]

Dr. Howells: There is currently a minimum six-day notice period for appointments to submit an application for settlement in the UK from Ukraine.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration is given to the distances that have to be travelled to attend appointments, when giving notice of appointments to submit applications for settlement in the UK from Ukraine. [154510]

Dr. Howells: If an applicant for a settlement visa to the UK from the Ukraine is unable to attend their appointment due to the distance they need to travel they are able to book a new appointment. This will not affect the outcome of their visa application.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund: Grants

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what investigations took place into the activities of the *(a)* Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* the New Kadempa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International before the Department took the final decision to grant funds to each organisation from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. [156700]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department considered information received from the Information Network Focus on religious movements who provide objective information to Government relating to minority religious groups before agreeing that the funding could be released.

Audit Commission: Teammate International Forum

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of the Audit Commission attending the Teammate International Forum in Tampa, Florida in November 2006. [155716]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 4 October 2007:

I am writing in response to your parliamentary question asking what the (a) cost and (b) purpose was of the Audit Commission attending the Teammate International Forum in Tampa, Florida.

The Audit Commission sent two delegates to the TeamMate International Forum at a total cost of £1,912.

TeamMate is the Commission's electronic working paper software and is fundamental to our core business. It is a proprietary product marketed around the globe by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The Commission is the single largest user of this application worldwide. Every two years PwC organises an international users' conference.

The principal purpose of our attendance at the conference was to maintain up-to-date knowledge of how the product is being used elsewhere and planned future developments of the software. The secondary purpose was to network with other users to learn from them and ensure we keep our audit tools as efficient as possible. Attendance at the event also gives us an opportunity to influence the future development of the product to meet our developing business needs.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Buildings: Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on whether the forthcoming requirement for buildings over 1,000 square metres to display an energy certificate and advisory report applies to *(a)* churches and places of worship, *(b)* train stations, *(c)* venues licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 for the sale of alcohol and *(d)* care homes; and if she will make a statement. [153817]

Yvette Cooper: The Display Energy Certificate requirement will apply to buildings over 1,000 sq m that are occupied by a public authority or an institution providing a public service to a large number of persons. We are continuing to work with key stakeholders and will publish further guidance in due course.

Buildings: Standards

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the merits of changing the building regulations to require all new build homes to be built to lifetime home standards; [155968]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of requiring 10 per cent. of all new build housing to be wheelchair accessible throughout. [155969]

Mr. Iain Wright: The costs and benefits of lifetime homes, which include wheelchair accessibility, are set out in the Department's consultation document "The future of the Code for Sustainable Homes—making a rating mandatory" published on 23 July 2007 with a closing date for comment of 23 October 2007. The document proposes making lifetime homes standards mandatory within the code at progressively lower levels of the code over time.

There is currently no proposal to change the building regulations to require all new build homes to be built to lifetime home standards. However, the Government have stated, in its response to Kate Barker's report on Housing Supply, that

"It is very important that there is progress on increasing take up of the lifetime homes standard. The Government will monitor take up and review the future need for regulation if appropriate."

Casinos: Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals relating to casinos or with a casino element have been considered by *(a)* the Planning Inspectorate and *(b)* the First Secretary of State since November 2005. [155686]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has not decided any planning applications that have included a casino element since November 2005. In the same period, the Planning Inspectorate have decided eight appeals for developments with a casino element, of which five have been allowed and three dismissed. Details of these can be found in the following tables.

Appeals involving casinos decided since 1 November 2005 by The Planning Inspectorate

Decision	*Number*
Allowed	5
Dismissed	3
Total	8

Note:
Data as at 3 October 2007. Ref: 294-07-08
Source:
PINS SIU Data Mart

Appeal Ref No.	Local planning authority	Type of appeal	Date of appeal decision	Decision outcome	Description of the development	Site address
PINS						
1197569	Guildford	Planning appeal	12 July 2006	Allowed	use as a casino complex incorporating a1,a2,a3,a4 and d2 uses. use as a leisure complex including a1,a2,a3,a4,a5 & d2 uses	The Drink & Bar Mambo &, Nos 1-5 The Quadrant, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4SQ
2017910	Sandwell	Planning appeal	14 July 2006	Allowed	change of use from a3 to d2 (public house to casino) and two storey extension , car parking including carports to rear.	"The Barleycorn" public house, Bearwood Road/Dawson Street, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4ES
2019042	Guildford	Listed Building/ Conservation Area Consent appeal	21 May 2007	Dismissed	Conservation area consent for the demolition of all existing buildings, to facilitate redevelopment comprising a new 8 storey building fronting Onslow Street/Bridge Street to provide a leisure and entertainment complex to accommodate a casino and associated uses, attached at first floor and above to a 7 storey building to the West comprising a 136 bedroom hotel with 10 suites and including conference facilities, 5 retail units, bar and restaurant, spa and gym, continuation of the casino at first floor, reducing 3 storeys in Bedford Road adjacent to the River Wey footbridge and 4 stories Southwards adjacent to the River Wey towards the Onslow Bridge.	The Drink, Bar Mambo, 1-5 The Quadrant Inc. Car Park & Clark Gammon Auctioneers, 2-5 Bedford Rd, Guildford, GU1 4SJ
2019043	Guildford	Planning appeal	21 May 2007	Dismissed	Conservation area consent for the demolition of all existing buildings, to facilitate redevelopment comprising a new 8 storey building fronting Onslow Street/Bridge Street to provide a leisure and entertainment complex to accommodate a casino and associated uses, attached at first floor and above to a 7 storey building to the West comprising a 136 bedroom hotel with 10 suites and including conference facilities, 5 retail units, bar and restaurant, spa and gym, continuation of the casino at first floor, reducing 3 storeys in Bedford Road adjacent to the River Wey footbridge and 4 stories Southwards adjacent to the River Wey towards the Onslow Bridge.	The Drink, Bar Mambo, 1-5 The Quadrant Inc. Car Park & Clark Gammon Auctioneers, 2-5 Bedford Rd, Guildford, GU1 4SJ
2023570	Blackpool	Planning appeal	15 May 2007	Allowed	change of use to casino	Palatine Buildings, Promenade, Blackpool , Lancashire , FY1 4TQ
2023572	Blackpool	Planning appeal	15 May 2007	Allowed	change of use to casino	Palatine Buildings, Promenade, Blackpool , Lancashire , FY1 4TQ
2030693	City of Westminster	Planning appeal	27 February 2007	Dismissed	use from restaurant (class a3) on the ground floor (includes 91-92) to casino (sui generis)	91 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6JB
2041173	Bournemouth	Listed Building/ Conservation Area Consent appeal	23 July 2007	Allowed	new external signage to replace existing.	Stanley Bournemouth Casino, 9 Yelverton Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1DA

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether concerns over problem gambling may be considered as a material factor when assessing a planning application for a casino. [155697]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 268W.

Community Development

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what individuals and organisations have been invited to discussions and meetings with her Department on community integration and cohesion issues in the last 12 months. [156425]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government (CLG) is responsible for coordinating and delivering work to build community integration and cohesion in local areas. We do this by meeting with and consulting a wide range of stakeholders both within Whitehall, and the regions.

We also meet routinely with local authorities, LGA and the IDEA, to discuss the important work of building community cohesion and promoting integration.

In order to ensure we deliver real life policy, CLG also meets and consults with a wide range of grass roots individuals and organisation involved in delivering cohesion at the sharp end.

The Commission on Integration and Cohesion, which ran from August 2006 to June 2007, was supported by a small CLG secretariat, which undertook research on their behalf, and co-ordinated an outreach programme that meant they engaged with over 2000 people through round tables, regional visits, and user forums.

A comprehensive list of all individuals and organisations met could only be produced at disproportionate cost, but to inform its approach to developing and promoting integration and community cohesion, CLG has met:

Groundwork UK
HACT
CLG's Neighbourhood Renewal Advisors
National Community Forum (NCF)
Race Equality Action Group (REAG)
Community Security Trust
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Chief Rabbi's Office
Jewish Leadership Council
Skillsforce
Institute of Community Cohesion (ICOCO)
Muslim.Safety Forum
MCHC Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre
The Participation Works
Representatives of the South Asian Development Partnership.
ACPO National Community Tensions Team
Citizenship Foundation
Serious Organised Crime Agency
LB Barking and Dagenham
Welsh Assembly
Parliamentary Committee Against Anti-Semitism
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board

Officials in CLG have on occasion also met with representatives from overseas seeking to exchange good practice on integration and cohesion.

Departments: Berkeley Group

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 735W, on Departments: Berkeley Group, whether the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) met with *(a)* directors, representatives or lawyers acting for and *(b)* employees of (i) Berkeley Group Holdings plc, (ii) St George plc, (iii) Berkeley Homes plc, (iv) St James Group Ltd, (v) Berkeley First Ltd, (vi) Berkeley Commercial Development Ltd and (vii) Berkeley Strategic Land Ltd in a Ministerial capacity in the last three years; and whether any officials in her Department attended such meetings. [156240]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. As a general point of principle, information relating to such meetings is not normally disclosed.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which private consultancy firms *(a)* her Department and *(b)* agencies which report to her Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155898]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1170W, which lists those 10 Communities Programmes which accounted for the most consultancy spend.

Departments: Private Finance Initiatives

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the signed local authority private finance initiative projects for which her Department is responsible. [154457]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of all signed PFI projects are recorded on HM Treasury's website which is maintained through returns provided by each Government Department on a twice yearly basis during budget reporting periods.

A list of signed local authority private finance initiative projects which are sponsored by Communities and Local Government is available from HM Treasury's website on the following link:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list her

Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156674]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government was established on 5 May 2006. The information requested can be found in Note 33 of the Departments resource accounts 2006-07 at the following web link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/corporate/resourceaccounts06-07

Fire Services

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the location is of each fire local control room in England, broken down by region; and how many people are employed at each. [156579]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table gives the location of the current fire service control rooms by region and the number of staff employed in the control rooms as at 2006-07.

Region	*FRS*	*Location*	*Number of control room staff as at 2006-07*
East of England	Bedfordshire	Kempston	30
	Cambridgeshire	Huntingdon	23
	Essex	Brentwood	49
	Hertfordshire	Stevenage	26
	Norfolk	Hathersett	30
	Suffolk	Ipswich	25
Regional total			183
East Midlands	Derbyshire	Derby	26
	Leicestershire	Glenfield	31
	Lincolnshire	Lincoln	23
	Northamptonshire	Moulton	23
	Nottinghamshire	Arnold, Nottingham	26
Regional total			129
London	London	Greenwich View Place	114
North East	County of Durham and Darlington	Durham	26
	Northumberland	Morpeth	23
	Cleveland	Hartlepool	27
	Tyne and Wear	Newcastle	37
Regional total			113
North-west	Cheshire	Winsford	25
	Cumbria	Cockermouth	18
	Greater Manchester	Swinton	45
	Lancashire	Preston	67
	Merseyside	Liverpool	55
Regional total			210
South East	Berkshire	Reading	30
	Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury	20
	East Sussex	Lewes	26
	Hampshire	Petersfield	40
	Kent	Maidstone	39
	Isle of Wight	Newport	13
	Oxfordshire	Kidlington	20
	Surrey	Reigate	29
	West Sussex	Chichester	31
Regional total			248
South West	Avon	Lansdowne near Bath	28
	Cornwall	Truro	15
	Devon	Exeter	24
	Dorset	Dorchester	26
	Gloucestershire	Gloucester	24
	Somerset	Taunton	20
	Wiltshire	Swindon	26
Regional total			163
Yorkshire and Humberside	Humberside	Hessle, Hull	29
	North Yorkshire	Northallerton	22
	South Yorkshire	Sheffield	41
	West Yorkshire	Birkenshaw	54
Regional total			146
West Midlands	Hereford and Worcester	Worcester	23
	Shropshire	Shrewsbury	17
	Staffordshire	Pirehill	31
	Warwickshire	Leamington Spa	21
	West Midlands	Birmingham	65
Regional total			157

Fire Services: Perfluoro Octane Sulphanate

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions in each of the last 10 years fire-fighting operations involved the use of materials containing perfluoro octane sulphanate. [155722]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Working Time Directive

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there is a derogation from the Working Time Directive for retained firefighters who have other employment. [155699]

Mr. Dhanda: Retained duty system firefighters are able to work beyond the 48 hours a week set by the working time regulations provided they have signed a waiver for their primary and secondary employment.

Flood Control

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of the probability of *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high flood risk in terms of the frequency in years at which an area is likely to flood. [156578]

Mr. Iain Wright: The definitions of *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high risk probability are defined in Table D.I. of Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) 'Development and Flood Risk', which Communities and Local Government published in December 2006.

The definitions are as follows:

(a) Low Probability (Flood Zone 1)

This zone comprises land assessed as having a less than one in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding in any year (<0.1%)

(b) Medium probability (Flood Zone 2)

This zone comprises land assessed as having between a one in 100 and one in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding (1 per cent. to 0.1 per cent. or between a one in 200 and one in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5 per cent. to 1 per cent.) in any year.

(c) High probability (Flood Zone 3a)

This zone comprises land assessed as having a one in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) or a one in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year.

These flood zones refer to the probability of river and sea flooding, ignoring the presence of defences as these can be breached, overtopped and may not be in existence for the lifetime of the development.

PPS 25 is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/154271

Green Belt

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of designated Green Belt land lost their Green Belt designation in each Government Office Region in England in each year since 1997. [155705]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the net amount of designated green belt land lost by Government office region in hectares for the years for which data is available.

Net area loss of designated green belt by Government office region

	Net losses in hectares between:		
Government office region	*1997 and 2003*	*2003 and 2004*	*2004 and 2006*
North East	—	—	—
North West	—	-20	-280
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—
East Midlands	-190	-40	-580
West Midlands	-30	—	-204
East	—	—	-448
London	-20	—	—
South East[1]	—	—	-47,630
South West	—	-230	—

[1] The 2004 to 2006 figure includes 47,300 hectares of designated green belt land in New Forest DC and Test Valley DC which was designated as New Forest National Park in 2005.

Excluding the 47,300 hectares of green belt land which was designated as National Park in 2005, the total amount of green belt increased across England by 27,850 hectares over the nine-year period 1997 to 2006.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been produced for local authorities on the enforcement of the home information pack regulations. [152384]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has produced procedural guidance for the home information pack regulations, including guidance on the enforcement provisions within the regulations. The Department has also produced guidance for enforcement authorities, following consultations with Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and the Trading Standards Institute (TSI).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum time is that a local authority and water search in a home information pack can remain in place before it must be renewed. [156562]

Yvette Cooper: The HIPs (No. 2) Regulations 2007 do not specify how long a search report should remain in place before it must be renewed but require that a search must not be older than three months at the first point of marketing.

Home Information Packs: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W, on home information packs: finance, by what mechanism funding is being provided to trading standards officers in Wales. [152684]

Yvette Cooper: Funding for trading standards officers in Wales is provided through the annual revenue settlement. Responsibility for the revenue settlement in Wales rests with the Welsh Assembly Government. In 2007-08 the settlement amounted to £3.7 billion.

Home Information Packs: Trading Standards Institute

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to trading standards officers on the enforcement of home information pack regulations. [152517]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (UIN 152384).

Home Information Packs: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances mortgage lenders and automated valuation suppliers may use information from the Energy Performance Certificate register for automated valuations. [153816]

Yvette Cooper: The disclosure of Energy Performance Certificates and information obtained from them, whether obtained directly from the register or otherwise, is limited to the purposes set down in the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007.

Homelessness: Expenditure

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent in London on rough sleepers by *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local authorities in each of the last five years. [156718]

Mr. Iain Wright: Homelessness grant is paid to local authorities to tackle homelessness, which includes rough sleeping. It is also paid direct to several voluntary sector agencies in London to help them tackle rough sleeping. Supporting People, introduced in 2003, also funds rough sleeper services. The following table indicates the amount of funding.

In addition to the moneys outlined in the table, an extra £63 million has been made available under the Hotels Capital Improvement Programme in the last three years to improve hostels and day centres used by rough sleepers in London.

	£
Homelessness Grant paid to local authorities in London to tackle homelessness, including tackling rough sleeping	
2003-04	24,452,574
2004-05	22,085,000
2005-06	21,080,764
2006-07	22,676,155
2007-08	21,771,500
Homelessness Grant paid direct to voluntary sector organisations in London to tackle rough sleeping	
2003-04	20,288,079
2004-05	9,225,948
2005-06	8,906,031
2006-07	9,168,031
2007-08	9,448,000
Supporting People programme—London rough sleeping	
2003-04	8,474,084
2004-05	8,373,174
2005-06	11,971,500
2006-07	12,753,861

Housing

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the housing stock in England is made up of three bedroom homes. [155696]

Yvette Cooper: The Survey of English Housing reported that 45 per cent. of households in England lived in three-bedroom dwellings in the financial year 2005-06.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of her Department's target of building 240,000 new dwellings a year in England she expects to be built by *(a)* local authorities as council housing stock, *(b)* housing associations for social tenure and *(c)* the private sector for private sale. [155858]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are committed to tackling the problems of housing affordability and have announced plans to raise the annual housing supply target for 2016 from 200,000 to 240,000 additional homes a year.

The recent Housing Green Paper "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" sets out further details of our proposals, including Government's plans for the level of affordable housing to be delivered in the years covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review, supported by investment of at least £8 billion. We are increasing outputs of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 by 2010-11 of which 45,000 will be for new social rented homes—50 per cent. more than this year, 2007-08.

The detail of where additional housing of various types will be located is a matter for regional and local planning processes and functions.

Housing: Disabled

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many local authorities with housing responsibilities in England have an adapted homes register; [155970]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of requiring all local authorities with housing responsibilities to maintain an adapted homes register; [155971]

(3) what assessment she has made of the merits of the creation of a nationwide adapted homes register. [155972]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect information about social landlords who hold adapted homes registers (otherwise known as accessible housing registers).

The Government want to see social landlords make the best use of housing stock, including accommodation which is accessible or has been adapted. We recognise that accessible housing registers can be useful and the current statutory guidance to local authorities on the allocation of accommodation encourages their use.

The Department's Disability Equality Scheme published in December 2006 includes a commitment to establish whether and what the role is for accessible housing registers (AHRs) within the context of our choice-based lettings policy[1] and the development of the National Register of Social Housing (NROSH).

NROSH will be a central record of each individual unit of social housing (local authority and housing association stock). This includes property referencing, size type and age of dwelling, category of provision, decent homes standard, accessibility, tenure, rent, service charges and vacancy status. The Data Standards document describing these fields is on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingdataprojects/nationalregister

Data collection is not yet complete.

In addition, the Department is providing support (£760,000 over two years 2006--08) to develop a pan-London choice-based lettings scheme ('Capital Moves') including the development of a London-wide accessible housing register.

[1] CBL schemes are about advertising available social housing for which applicants can bid. We have set a target for all local authorities to have implemented CBL by 2010.

Housing: Energy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an energy performance certificate will need to be commissioned for a new build domestic dwelling for sale. [152411]

Yvette Cooper: Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) will be required on the sale of all new dwellings. Where an EPC has been obtained on construction, it can be reused if the property is resold within the certificate's validity period.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition she uses of overcrowding in relation to social housing. [153695]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under the standards set out in Section 324 of Part 10 of the Housing Act 1985 a dwelling is overcrowded when the number of people sleeping in the dwelling is such as to contravene either the 'room standard' or the 'space standard'.

The room standard is breached if the number of people sleeping in a dwelling, and the number of rooms available as sleeping accommodation, are such that two people of opposite sexes who are not living together as husband and wife must sleep in the same room. Children under 10 do not count.

The space standard specifies the maximum number of people who may sleep in a dwelling, and in the available rooms within it, having regard to (i) the number of available rooms of 50 square feet or more and (ii) the floor area of each room. Two calculations are required and the lower number applies. Babies under one year old do not count, and children between one and 10 count as half.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether National Register of Social Housing is maintained in-house or by an external company. [153910]

Yvette Cooper: The National Register of Social Housing is a database containing information on the individual dwellings which make up the stock of social housing in England. It is under development and currently contains records of 30 per cent. of the stock. The database is maintained in house by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council-owned houses have been built for rent in each West Midlands metropolitan district since 1997. [156717]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of council-owned houses built for rent for the period 1996-97 to 2006-07 as reported by the seven West Midlands metropolitan districts is shown as follows:

	Permanent dwellings completed by local authorities
Birmingham	0
Coventry	0
Dudley	0
Sandwell	66
Solihull	0
Walsall	0
Wolverhampton	0

Source:
P2 new build from local authorities

Local Government

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what adopted local plans and unitary development plans are in force for each local planning authority, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* county; and what the month of adoption was in each case. [152746]

Yvette Cooper: Adopted local plans and UDPs are in force for all local planning authorities. Those plans which were adopted before September 2004 are "saved" until September 2007. Those adopted after September

2004 are "saved" for three years after adoption. Where local authorities have adopted development plan documents these will replace the local plans/UDPs in whole or in part. A table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the adoption dates of local plans and UDPs.

Mayor of London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 11 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 898W, on the Mayor of London, what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse, including the costs incurred by the Mayor, which will be met by the Standards Board. [156376]

John Healey: The Standards Board's own costs in respect of the case against the London Mayor amount to £64,000. The costs payable by the board to the Mayor in connection with the case are estimated to be £120,000. The cost to the Adjudication Panel in respect of the case is £14,000.

Ordnance Survey: Government Departments

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies have purchased licences to use the Ordnance Survey Pictometry product. [156580]

Mr. Iain Wright: Pictometry® is not an Ordnance Survey product.

BLOM Aerofilms Ltd., a private sector company, has the rights to market a Pictometry product in the United Kingdom. The product combines BLOM Aerofilms's oblique aerial imagery with viewing software patented by an American company, Pictometry International Corp.

Ordnance Survey has a non-exclusive commercial agreement with BLOM Aerofilms to act as an authorised reseller of Pictometry of Great Britain. Information on sales of licences to use Pictometry within the United Kingdom is commercially sensitive to BLOM Aerofilms Ltd., given that there are other commercial providers of potentially competing products.

Ordnance Survey: Map Watch Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose is of the Ordnance Survey's Map Watch initiative. [155679]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Ordnance Survey 'Map Watch' initiative is an internal departmental initiative, started in 2000, to encourage Ordnance Survey staff to identify potentially unlicensed extracts of Ordnance Survey mapping contained within third party publications, so that infringements of Crown copyright may be investigated and resolved.

Planning Permission: Purfleet

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what period and with whom she will consult consequent on the decision of the High Court in respect of her decision to reject the planning application submitted by George Wimpey for 571 residential units on former industrial land at Cory's Wharf, Purfleet; and if she will make a statement. [156391]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State will shortly write to George Wimpey, Thurrock borough council, Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation, and other interested persons who appeared at the public inquiry, to invite them to submit written representations in respect of any material changes in planning circumstances that may have occurred since the close of the inquiry. Parties will be asked to submit any representations no later than three weeks from the date of the Secretary of State's letter. Alternatively, parties may ask for the inquiry to be re-opened. In deciding whether the inquiry should be re-opened, the Secretary of State will consider all views that may be expressed to her on this matter.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors and whose advice she took into account in deciding to call in the planning application made by George Wimpey for 571 residential units at the former industrial land at Cory's Wharf, Purfleet; and if she will make a statement. [156392]

Mr. Dhanda: In line with the then current policy on recovering planning appeals, set out in the statement to the House of Commons on 25 July 2000 by my right hon. Friend the Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr. Raynsford), the appeal was automatically recovered by the Secretary of State for her own determination in December 2004, rather than being decided by one of her Planning Inspectors, because it raised issues relating to residential development of more than 5 hectares or 150 or more houses.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons she rejected the inspector's findings made in respect of the planning application by George Wimpey for 571 residential units at the former industrial land at Cory's Wharf, Purfleet and issued an alternative determination; and if she will make a statement. [156393]

Mr. Dhanda: The reasons for the Secretary of State's decision are set out in the decision letter of 2 October 2006, which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planning-callins/pdf/195158

Copies of the decision letter have been placed in the Library of both houses. Since this decision has now been quashed and falls to be redetermined by the Secretary of State, it would not be appropriate to comment further on the reasons for the decision.

Planning Permission: Vauxhall Tower

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the ruling of the Information Tribunal regarding the consideration of the planning application by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Vauxhall Tower in South London. [155683]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government accepted the Information Tribunal Judgment in the particular case of the Vauxhall Tower planning application. Copies of the submissions by officials are available on the DCLG website. However, we consider each request for information on the particular facts of each case, in accordance with the provisions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Urban Areas: Trees

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the Trees in Towns II report commissioned by her Department; [156513]

(2) what research her Department and its predecessor commissioned into trees in urban areas over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [156581]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have commissioned one research project on trees in urban areas over the last five years, namely Trees in Towns II.

Copies of the Trees in Towns II final report will be placed in the Library when it is published towards the end of November 2007.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the increase in average earnings in *(a)* the whole labour market, *(b)* the private sector and *(c)* the public sector has been since 1997. [155940]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what increase in average earnings in (a) the whole labour market, (b) the private sector and (c) the public sector has been since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (155940)

Growth in earnings is estimated from the Average Earnings Index (AEI). The AEI figures for Great Britain are collected and published monthly. The AEI does not cover the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

The monthly changes to the index and growth are published on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdtables1.asp?vlnk=emp. Calendar year comparisons are available on request.

Each month 8900 companies are surveyed for the AEI, covering 12.8 million employees, which is just under half of all GB employees.

I attach a table showing the average earnings index seasonally adjusted from 1997 until 2006 for the whole economy, public and private sectors.

Average Earnings Index: all employee jobs, main industrial sectors, seasonally adjusted, Great Britain

Including bonuses, excluding arrears

	Whole economy (divisions 01-93)		*Public sector*		*Private sector*	
2000=100	*Index*	*Annual growth (Percentage)*	*Index*	*Annual growth (Percentage)*	*Index*	*Annual growth (Percentage)*
	LNMQ	LNMU	LNNJ	LNKW	LNKY	LNKZ
1997	86.8	—	89.6	—	86.2	—
1998	91.3	5.1	92.5	3.3	91.0	5.6
1999	95.7	4.8	96.4	4.2	95.5	5.0
2000	100.0	4.5	100.0	3.8	100.0	4.7
2001	104.5	4.5	105.0	5.0	104.3	4.3
2002	108.2	3.6	109.3	4.1	107.9	3.5
2003	111.9	3.5	114.8	5.0	111.3	3.1
2004	116.8	4.3	119.8	4.4	116.0	4.2
2005	121.5	4.1	125.4	4.7	120.6	4.0
2006	126.5	4.1	130.0	3.6	125.7	4.2
Total Growth 1997 to 2006	—	45.7	—	45.1	—	45.9

Note:
All figures based upon the calendar year.
Source:
Annual Earnings Index, Office for National Statistics.

Child Tax Credit

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of child tax credits receive child support agency payments or child maintenance payments which are not taken into account in assessing the recipient's income. [155725]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Customs Officers: Manpower

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers were employed

by HM Revenue and Customs in each English region in each of the last five years. [155847]

Angela Eagle: In April 2005, HM Customs and Excise was merged with the Inland Revenue to form HM Revenue and Customs. Numbers of staff in HM Customs and Excise are not available from that date. Previous numbers of HM Customs and Excise staff within the Government office regions, as well as those of the combined Department, are published annually in 'Civil Service Statistics' and at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/index.asp.

The following table shows the number of staff in the Detection directorate, which is mainly engaged in anti-smuggling work, in each of the Government office regions. The substantial numbers of staff in other directorates engaged partly or wholly on work in the customs area are not identifiable from HMRC records.

GOR	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East	139.1	431.8	464.4	506.1	577.84
East Midlands	43.3	38.8	45.1	43.2	48.98
North East	78.8	71.7	79.4	78.4	91.8
North West	290	305.9	339.7	336.8	329.79
South East[1]	2,491.7	2,187.5	2,398.4	2,575.7	2,611.01
South West	154.5	150	135.3	132.2	120.37
West Midlands	84.4	91.8	88.4	139.8	158.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	144.6	182.6	179.2	194.3	230.8
Total	3,426.4	3,460.1	3,729.9	4,006.5	4,169.49

[1] Includes London

Customs Officers: South West Region

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many Customs officers were permanently attached to *(a)* seaports, *(b)* airfields in (i) Cornwall, (ii) Devon, (iii) Dorset, (iv) Isle of Wight and (v) Hampshire in (A) 2001 and (B) 2007; and if he will make a statement; [156682]

(2) what plans he has to increase the permanent presence of customs officers at *(a)* seaports and *(b)* airfields in (i) Cornwall, (ii) Devon, (iii) Dorset, (iv) Isle of Wight and (v) Hampshire, with particular reference to land-based officers doing uncanalised work; and if he will make a statement. [156694]

Angela Eagle: HMRC do not release the numbers of front line Customs staff that they deploy at a local level as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Debts

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of personal debt is *(a)* secured and *(b)* unsecured; and if he will make a statement; [156261]

(2) what the level of *(a)* total, *(b)* secured and *(c)* unsecured personal debt in the UK is as a percentage of gross disposable income; and if he will make a statement; [156262]

(3) what the level of *(a)* total, *(b)* secured, *(c)* average secured, *(d)* unsecured and *(e)* average unsecured personal debt is in (i) the UK and (ii) each region; and if he will make a statement. [156263]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions on what proportion of personal debt is secured and unsecured, what these are as percentages of gross disposable income and what the average levels of these are in the UK and in each region of the UK. (156261, 156262, 156263)

The information requested is given in the tables below. Statistics on personal debt by region of the UK are not available.

Table 1: Unsecured and secured debt as a proportion of personal debt

	Personal debt/total loans (£ million)	*Unsecured/ short-term loans (£ million)*	*Secured/long-term loans (£ million)*	*Unsecured/ short-term loans as percentage of total loans*	*Secured/long-term loans as percentage of total loans*
1995	478,629	77,474	401,155	16	84
1996	499,358	80,084	419,274	16	84
1997	531,934	88,412	443,522	17	83
1998	567,788	97,404	470,384	17	83
1999	617,653	109,208	508,445	18	82
2000	675,433	124,323	551,110	18	82
2001	749,249	140,891	608,358	19	81
2002	848,038	157,748	690,290	19	81
2003	958,210	163,506	794,704	17	83
2004	1,083,349	183,390	899,959	17	83

Table 1: Unsecured and secured debt as a proportion of personal debt

	Personal debt/total loans (£ million)	*Unsecured/ short-term loans (£ million)*	*Secured/long-term loans (£ million)*	*Unsecured/ short-term loans as percentage of total loans*	*Secured/long-term loans as percentage of total loans*
2005	1,158,336	194,129	964,207	17	83
2006	1,278,332	205,012	1,073,320	16	84

Source:
Table A64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts http://www. statistics. gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Table 2: Total personal debt, unsecured debt and secured debt as a proportion of household gross disposable income

	Household gross disposable income (£ million)	*Personal debt as percentage of gross disposable income*	*Unsecured debt as percentage of gross disposable income*	*Secured debt as percentage of gross disposable income*
1995	497,593	96	16	81
1996	526,366	95	15	80
1997	559,941	95	16	79
1998	582,790	97	17	81
1999	608,988	101	18	83
2000	643,415	105	19	86
2001	686,312	109	21	89
2002	709,048	120	22	97
2003	740,389	129	24	107
2004	765,683	141	24	118
2005	807,989	143	24	119
2006	836,911	153	24	128

Notes:
1. Differences due to rounding.
2. Personal debt numbers consistent with those in Table 1 above.

Source:
Tables A3 8 and A64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Table 3: Total personal debt, unsecured debt and secured debt per head of population

	Total UK population (Thousand)	*Average personal debt (£)*	*Average unsecured debt (£)*	*Average secured debt (£)*
1995	58,025	8,249	1,335	6,913
1996	58,164	8,585	1,377	7,208
1997	58,314	9,122	1,516	7,606
1998	58,475	9,710	1,666	8,044
1999	58,684	10,525	1,861	8,664
2000	58,886	11,470	2,111	9,359
2001	59,113	12,675	2,383	10,291
2002	59,322	14,296	2,659	11,636
2003	59,554	16,090	2,746	13,344
2004	59,834	18,106	3,065	15,041
2005	60,218	19,236	3,224	16,012
2006	60,533	21,118	3,387	17,731

Note:
Personal debt numbers consistent with those in Table 1 above.

Source:
Table A64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904 Home population Table 1.5 The Blue Book 2007. http://www. statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1143

Debts: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of personal debt incurred by people living in Cornwall was in each year since 1979. [156666]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury does not hold data concerning the information requested.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155880]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury group's spending on consultancy since 2001-02 is set out in table 7.4 on page 91 of the 2006-07 annual report and accounts, available from http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/annual_report07.cfm. The further details requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what visits he has made involving a mix of political and official engagements where Government Car Service vehicles were used in 2007; and whether the Government was reimbursed a proportion of the cost in each case. [142600]

Angela Eagle: All travel is undertaken in accordance with Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the House Library.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156678]

Angela Eagle: In the financial year 2006-07, the Treasury had one Executive agency, the Debt Management Office and two NDPBs, the Public Services Productivity Panel, and the Statistics Commission. The abolition of the PSPP was announced in the 2006 pre-Budget report. The Statistics Commission will be replaced by a new Statistics Board, independent of the Treasury, under the Statistics Bill.

The Office of Government Commerce, part of the HM Treasury Group, has one trading fund, OGCbuying.solutions.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155897]

Angela Eagle: The only form of advertising spending planned by the Treasury for 2007-08 is recruitment advertising, in print and electronic media. The Treasury's budget for recruitment costs (including other costs besides recruitment advertising) for 2007-08 is £116,000. Line by line budgets for 2008-09 have not yet been set.

Disabled

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were registered as disabled in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997; and how many of those registered were in employment in each case. [156714]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many people were registered as disabled and how many of those registered were in employment in each year since 1997. (156714)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (1LO) definitions. ONS does not have data on registered disabled people but the above surveys do collect information on the disability status of respondents, based on the respondents' self-assessment.

The table attached, shows the number of disabled people and of those the number who were in employment in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK, for the 12 month period ending in February for 1999 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 month period ending in March for 2003 to 2006, from the APS. The table also shows employment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Annual estimates are not available prior to 1999.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the annual Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Disabled[1] people of working age[2] in employment in the Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside, the North East region and the United Kingdom

Thousand

	Jarrow			*South Tyneside*		
	All disabled[1]	*In employment*		*All disabled[1]*	*In employment*	
12 months ending	*Level*	*Level*	*Rate[3] (%)*	*Level*	*Level*	*Rate[3] (%)*
February 1999	11	3	27	19	3	18
February 2000	13	4	34	20	7	34
February 2001	11	5	41	20	7	34
February 2002	11	4	40	19	7	36
February 2003	11	5	44	21	8	37
February 2004	12	5	38	22	8	37
March 2005	12	5	39	22	9	41
March 2006	11	4	40	21	8	36
Marsh 2007	10	4	35	21	8	36

Thousand

	North East			*United Kingdom*		
	All disabled[1]	*In employment*		*All disabled[1]*	*In employment*	
12 months ending	*Level*	*Level*	*Rate[3] (%)*	*Level*	*Level*	*Rate[3] (%)*
February 1999	356	123	35	6,219	2,724	44
February 2000	357	124	35	6,471	2,952	46
February 2001	334	118	35	6,718	3,110	46
February 2002	348	125	36	6,747	3,157	47
February 2003	351	132	38	6,817	3,234	47
February 2004	361	143	39	6,879	3,284	48
March 2005	358	147	41	6,853	3,358	49
March 2006	353	147	42	6,838	3,374	49
Marsh 2007	359	161	45	6,809	3,352	49

[1] Includes DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) and working-limiting disabled.
[2] Includes men aged 16 to 64 and women age 16 to 59.
[3] Disabled people in employment of working-age as a percentage of all disabled people.

Note:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Domicile: Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many investigations his Department instigated into claimants of non-domicile tax status in the last 12 months for which information is available; and if he will make statement; [153860]

(2) how many investigations instigated by his Department into claimants of non-domicile tax status resulted in claimants being *(a)* fined and *(b)* imprisoned for wrongfully claiming non-domicile status in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [153861]

(3) how many people *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully applied for non-domicile tax status in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [153864]

(4) how many investigations were undertaken into the income and assets held overseas by non-domiciled UK taxpayers in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [153936]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people claiming non-domicile tax status in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [153937]

Jane Kennedy: Information on investigations relating to and applications for non-domicile status are not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Claims for non-domicile status are not all processed separately from the overall tax assessment and are, therefore, not recorded separately. However, HMRC does know the number of taxpayers who have indicated non-domicile status through self-assessment. The following table shows the number of taxpayers who have done so through the SA return over the past 10 years. These figures cannot be broken down by month.

Tax year	*Number of non-domicile claims*
1996-97	68,000
1997-98	83,000
1998-99	91,000
1999-2000	98,000
2000-01	106,000
2001-02	111,000
2002-03	110,000
2003-04	111,000
2004-05	115,000
2005-06	114,000

Drug Seizures

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account is taken of past quantities of heroin and cocaine seized by HM Revenue and Customs in setting targets for future seizures; for what reason equivalent seizure targets are not set for *(a)* ecstasy and *(b)* cannabis; and if he will make a statement [156607]

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what quantities of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy and *(d)* cannabis were seized as a result of HM Revenue and Customs operations in each of the last four years; [156024]

(2) what the seizure quantity targets were for *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy and *(d)* cannabis in each of the last four years. [156025]

Angela Eagle: Seizure quantity targets for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 for the Concerted Inter Agency Drugs Action group (CIDA) are as follows:

Financial year	*Heroin*	*Kilograms Cocaine*
2005-06[1]	5,300	13,200
2004-05	4,600	12,600
2003-04	4,000	12,000

[1] The targets set for each of the years 2005-06, 2004-05, 2003 -04 were joint targets for the agencies that formed the Concerted Inter-agency Drugs Action group (CIDA). The individual agencies that formed CIDA, including HMRC did not have their own specific targets.

No seizure targets were set for ecstasy or cannabis.

HM Revenue & Customs was one of the contributing agencies to CIDA's overall seizure target quantities. HMRC seized the following quantities of drugs in each of the last four years.

Financial year	*Heroin*	*Cocaine*	*Ecstasy*	*Kilograms Cannabis*
2006-07[1]	527	2,368	1,212	62,966
2005-06	1,057	5,798	468	41,611
2004-05	1,613	8,606	740	57,504
2003-04	1,626	[2]20,727	1,245	57,617

[1] When the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) became operational on 1 April 2006, primacy for, and the resources associated with the investigation of Class A drugs cases transferred to SOCA.

[2] The large quantity of cocaine seized in this year is due to the culmination of several long running operations.

HMRC's seizure target for 2006-07 was 700kgs for heroin and 2,600kgs for cocaine. In setting the targets for 2007-08 for heroin and cocaine, HM Revenue & Customs used their 2005-06 results and stripped out those seizures that were generated by the area of the Department that transferred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

Drug Seizures: South West Region

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what quantity of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy, *(d)* cannabis and *(e)* firearms has been seized by Customs officers in (i) seaports and (ii) airfields in (A) Cornwall, (B) Devon, (C) Dorset, (D) Isle of Wight and (E) Hampshire in (1) 2001, (2) 2002 and (3) in the last year for which records are available; and if he will make a statement. [156693]

Angela Eagle: National information on seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2003 is contained in their annual reports.

Information of seizures by location cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Financial Services: Bermuda

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of whether the banking and financial sector of Bermuda is *(a)* sufficiently transparent and *(b)* regulated and subject to oversight that meets European and other international norms designed to combat financial and white collar crime; and if he will make a statement. [155823]

Kitty Ussher: In 1999 the United Kingdom and the Caribbean Overseas Territories and Bermuda jointly commissioned an in-depth independent review of financial regulation in those territories. This review, carried out by KPMG and published on 27 October 2000, assessed the extent to which these Overseas Territories comply with international standards and good practice in the way they regulate their financial services sectors.

Bermuda is a member of the Caribbean Financial Action Taskforce and of the Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors, which are both observers bodies to the Financial Action Taskforce. Bermuda is also a member of the Egmont Group, the organisation for sharing information between Financial Intelligence Units. The Bermuda Monetary Authority is a member of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, which requires members to enter into a memorandum of understanding to mutually share information.

The International Monetary Fund conducted a review of Bermuda's financial sector regulation and supervision in early 2003 which is publicly available at www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr0598.pdf and www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2005/cr0599.pdf. This describes the financial, regulatory, and supervisory framework as well developed in banking, the key areas of securities regulation, and Anti-Money Laundering/ Counter Financing of Terrorism. The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the International Monetary Fund are currently undertaking a further assessment of regulation and supervision in Bermuda.

Financial Services: Pay

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of City bonuses on *(a)* London's housing market and *(b)* increases in housing prices in London in the last five years. [155607]

Jane Kennedy: HM Treasury has made no explicit assessment of the impact of City bonuses on London's housing market. Prospects for the housing market are examined as part of the usual Budget and pre-Budget report forecasting process.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake an evaluation of the adequacy of the tax rate on City bonuses. [155608]

Jane Kennedy: The Government keep all aspects of the tax system under review as part of the Budget cycle

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chairman of HM Customs and Revenue expects to reply to the letter of 19 July from the hon. Member for Aylesbury on the tax credit case of Mr. and Mrs. D. of Aylesbury (ref. JE875300A); and if he will make a statement. [156223]

Jane Kennedy: The Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs recently replied and apologises to the hon. Member for the delay in doing so.

HM Revenue and Customs: Travel

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the travelling and subsistence costs for mobile detection teams within the detection directorate of HM Revenue and Customs were in each of the last four years. [156026]

Angela Eagle: All frontline detection staff are deployed on flexible, mobile basis. Total travel and subsistence expenditure for the detection directorate is shown in the following table.

	£
2006-07	6,537,486
2005-06	6,378,546
2004-05	5,713,698
2003-04	5,931,342

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many estates in 2006-07 were not liable to inheritance tax as a consequence of the exemption available for *(a)* spouses and *(b)* civil partners. [155724]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimates are available for 2006-07, because the supporting information is not complete.

Insolvency: Football

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which professional football clubs have gone into administration leaving an unpaid debt to HM Revenue and Customs since 2000. [155598]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs are not in a position to provide such information about individual businesses, to do so would breach taxpayer confidentiality.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* tax and *(b)* national insurance revenue has been (i) lost and (ii) written off in relation to each professional football club which has entered into administration since 2000. [155599]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs are not in a position to provide information about individual businesses, as to do so would breach taxpayer confidentiality.

International Monetary Fund: Public Appointments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the suitability of *(a)* European and *(b)* non-European candidates for the post of Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and if he will make a statement; [155773]

(2) what discussions his Department has held on nominating a non-European candidate for the post of Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and if he will make a statement; [155774]

(3) what criteria his Department uses to assess candidates for nomination for the post of Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and if he will make a statement. [156317]

Kitty Ussher: The UK supports an open, transparent and meritocratic process for the selection of the Managing Director of the IMF, with the best candidate for the job selected regardless of nationality. The Chancellor has made this clear to other Finance Ministers both publicly and privately, including at the 9 July meeting of ECOFIN.

In selecting the successor to Rodrigo de Rato, the IMF's Executive Board put in place for the first time a selection process designed to deliver the UK's preferred objectives. This included a clear job description, a public timetable, a month-long nominations period, an interview stage—and an invitation for applications from all member countries. All of these steps were followed and by the close of nominations on 31 August two highly credible candidates had been put forward: Dominique Strauss-Kahn of France and Josef Tosovsky of the Czech Republic.

Before determining which of the two candidates to support, the UK compared their qualifications and experience to the job description set out by the Executive Board, available on the IMF website at www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2007/pr07159.htm and concluded that Dominique Strauss-Kahn would be best able to succeed in pushing forward significant reform at the Fund. For this reason, the UK Executive Director supported his candidacy and the UK welcomed Mr. Strauss-Kahn's appointment on 28 September.

The UK will in future continue to support a similarly open and transparent process for all senior appointments at both the IMF and the World Bank.

Landfill Tax

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much landfill tax was paid by *(a)* waste disposal authorities and *(b)* other local authorities in each of the last 10 years. [156502]

Angela Eagle: It is not possible using landfill tax receipts data to determine how much revenue is received from local authorities. This is because registered landfill site operators pay the tax to HM Revenue and Customs and pass on the cost to their customers through the disposal charges they set. The origin of the landfilled waste is not recorded on the tax return.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much landfill tax was hypothecated to local authorities via the Revenue Support Grant Settlements in each of the last four financial years. [156503]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 936W.

National Income: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross value added was for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in each year since 2004. [156667]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning Gross Value Added (GVA) for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in each year since 2004. I am replying in her absence. (156667)

Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) data are produced using the official statistical geographies known as NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics). GVA data exist for the NUTS2 region of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly for the time period 1995-2004. These data were provided in the PQ response Official Report of 16 July 2007, Volume 463, Col 62, which requested Gross Value Added in Cornwall in each year since 1979.

ONS plan to publish regional GVA data up to and including 2006 for NUTS1 regions and 2005 for NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions in December 2007.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of people in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* the United Kingdom who have been informed that their National Insurance contributions do not meet the required level to qualify for the basic state pension in each of the last 10 tax years have made voluntary Class 3 National Insurance contributions up to the level required to qualify for the basic state pension; [156499]

(2) what percentage of people in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* the United Kingdom who hold National Insurance numbers have made National Insurance contributions during each of the last 10 tax years. [156501]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) maintains National Insurance records but does not hold the precise data requested by the hon. Member. In particular data are not held by county of residence.

Each year HMRC tells certain customers where their annual National Insurance contributions do not meet the qualifying level for basic state pension purposes for

a tax year and how to pay the amount of voluntary contributions needed to make good the shortfall.

The following table gives detail for each year on a national basis.

	1996-97 to 2001-02 year breakdown not available	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Number of deficiency notices issued[1]	10,021,682	3,785,747	3,664,485	4,719,208
Number of receipts by end of March 2007 i.e. voluntary contributions made	329,046	129,411	105,774	60,031

[1] The tax years shown are the years in which the shortfall occurred as opposed to the year in which the notice was issued.

The percentage of people with National Insurance numbers who make a contribution in any year is not available.

Northern Rock

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the guarantee announced for deposits in Northern Rock covers unlimited new deposits into existing accounts; and for how long it is expected to continue. [155740]

Mr. Darling: On 17 September I announced that, should it be necessary, the Government, with the Bank of England, would put in place arrangements that would guarantee all the existing deposits in Northern Rock Plc. These arrangements would continue during the current instability in the financial markets.

The Government have today announced that these arrangements will be extended to cover all new retail deposits in Northern Rock Plc. The arrangements will cover all retail deposits taken since 19 September. Northern Rock Plc will pay an appropriate fee for the extension of the arrangements, which is designed to ensure that the company does not receive a commercial advantage.

Office for National Statistics: Directories

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest version of the National Statistics Postcode Directory. [156003]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting that a copy of the latest version of the National Statistics Postcode Directory be placed in the House of Commons Library (156003).

The quarterly Directory is a database file, available in a number of formats, which is used primarily for data processing. The Directory has not been developed for searches of individual postcodes and so does not have a user interface.

A free postcode searching facility is available through the GIGateway website: http://www.gigateway.org.uk/areasearch/default.html which contains all of the data available on the latest August '07 version of the Directory. This will provide you with direct access to the information held on the Directory.

The Parliamentary Constituencies held on the Directory are the current constituencies.

If you require any further information please contact Alistair Calder (alistair.calder@ons.gsi.gov.uk or 01329 813562).

Personal Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* annual incomes and *(b)* annual gross disposable household incomes were in (i) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, (ii) the South West, (iii) England and (iv) the UK in 2006. [156664]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning annual incomes and gross disposable household income (GDHI) in Cornwall, the South West, England and the United Kingdom in 2006. (156664)

Estimates of income are available back to 1995 and the latest year available is 2005. These data were provided in the PQ response Official Report of 5 June 2007, Volume 461, Col 474. ONS plan to publish regional GDHI for 2006 in April 2008.

Smuggling: Boats

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many uncanalised yacht and pleasure craft are estimated to have entered the UK in each year since 2003; and how many interventions or challenges have been made on yacht and pleasure craft by HM Revenue and Customs or other UK authorities since 2003. [156028]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs have not made any estimate of the number of yacht and pleasure craft arrivals to the UK.

We do not record centrally the number of challenges made on such craft.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what border controls HM Revenue and Customs exercise on *(a)* uncanalised yachts and *(b)* pleasure craft traffic, (i) entering and (ii) leaving the UK; and how many seizures of articles subject to an import prohibition have been made by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2003, broken down by category of item; and if he will make a statement. [156377]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs challenge, board and search yachts and pleasure craft on an intelligence-led basis. We do not centrally record seizures from such craft separately from other modes of transport.

National seizure figures are available in the HM Revenue and Customs Annual Report.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* records and *(b)* estimates have been made of the number of uncanalised yacht and pleasure craft entering the UK each year since 2003; and how many challenges have been made in respect of such craft by HM Revenue and Customs or other UK authority since 2003. [156608]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs have not made any estimate of the number of yacht and pleasure craft arrivals to the UK. No record is kept of the number of such vessels entering the UK.

We do not record centrally the number of challenges made on such craft.

Tax Yields: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money was received into the public purse from people in Cornwall by *(a)* Pay As You Earn, *(b)* national insurance, *(c)* VAT, *(d)* corporation tax and *(e)* road tax in each year since 1979. [156665]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the amount of tax revenue raised in Cornwall per annum. (156665)

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional estimates of Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) which include data for taxes on incomes and wealth paid by households. Data are available from 1995-2005. Regional estimates for expenditure based taxes and duties, for example VAT, are not available. Taxes paid by corporations are also unavailable on a regional basis.

Table A contains estimates of household taxes paid by residents of Cornwall and the Isles of Stilly from 1995 to 2005.

Table A: Taxes generated per annum millions[1,2]

	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly[3]
1995	549
1996	518
1997	523
1998	608
1999	627
2000	673
2001	717
2002	729
2003	764
2004	841
2005	909

[1] These data are at current prices. They are not deflated to account for increases in prices over time. Regional data are not available on a constant price (deflated) basis.
[2] These estimates are taken from the most recent release of regional GDHI data, published in March 2007.
[3] Data are presented for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly combined. These data cannot be disaggregated into the two constituent areas.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assumptions his Department has made regarding the behavioural changes necessary in order for receipts from remote gaming duty to equal those anticipated in the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report; [156521]

(2) how much revenue he expects to receive from remote gaming duty in each of the next five years. [156522]

Angela Eagle: Receipts from Remote Gaming Duty were forecast on the basis that existing Remote Gaming providers are located in tax havens and would not choose to relocate in Great Britain under any rate of taxation. Even at 0 per cent. Remote Gaming Duty, we expected the presence of irrecoverable VAT alone to prevent these companies choosing to relocate in Great Britain.

Revenue estimates of the Budget changes to gambling taxation were published in the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Taxation: National Lottery

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Treasury has raised in duty from the sale of National Lottery tickets in each year since the Lottery was established; and if he will make a statement. [156264]

Angela Eagle: Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Statistical Factsheet, available at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=facbetting

Taxation: Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the tax changes announced in the 2007 budget due to be implemented in 2008 on a woman pensioner aged between 60 and 65; and if he will make a statement. [156453]

Kitty Ussher: Tax changes announced in Budget 2007 were part of a package of reforms to support work, families and pensioners. The exact impact of the reforms on individuals including women pensioners aged between 60 and 64 will depend both on their own incomes, and also the circumstances of the household in which they live, for example the income and age of any partner, and family eligibility for tax credits and benefits.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 18 to 24-year-olds were not in full-time education, employment or training in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the population of 18 to 24-year-olds this represented in each case. [155992]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about young people not in employment, full-time education or training. I am replying in her absence. (155992)

Tables 1 and 2 attached, show the numbers of 18 to 24 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in Great Britain, parliamentary constituencies and local authorities, for the 12 months ending in March 2007 from the Annual Population Survey. The tables also show these numbers as percentages of the 18 to 24 year old populations in the areas.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

As the information is extensive, copies of these tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Valuation Office Agency: ICT

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what purpose the Valuation Office Agency joined PISCES; on what date; and at what cost. [156598]

Jane Kennedy: In January 2006 the VGA joined PISCES (Property Information System Common Exchange Standards) to enable it to contribute to the development of common standards for the holding—and where authorised—transfer of information relating to commercial properties. Executive membership costs £10,000 plus VAT per year.

VAT: Helmets

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons VAT is charged on child cycling helmets. [155636]

Jane Kennedy: VAT is not chargeable on any pedal cycle helmet which satisfies the requirements of the Personal Protective Equipment Directive (Directive 89/686/EEC).

Welfare Tax Credits

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice is given to claimants when there is a significant delay in amending a claimant's award notice following a change in their circumstances to enable them to calculate their tax credit entitlement when payments continue. [155749]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credits award notices and accompanying guidance notes, together with the guidance notes that accompany claim forms, all explain that changes in income can affect entitlement and encourage claimants to tell HM Revenue and Customs as soon as their income changes. Where a customer has not received a new award notice following a change in their circumstances, they can ring the Tax Credits Helpline and ask for a recalculation of their award using the new information.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid through the tax credit system to clients as compensation in lieu of any bank charges incurred on their personal accounts while involved with the tax credit system in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [156294]

Jane Kennedy: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet, "Complaints and Putting Things Right", which is available at www.hmrc.gov.uk

HMRC does not separately record the value of payments made to reimburse customers' bank charges.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Mike Wood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what process is followed by HM Revenue and Customs when dealing with appeals against the decisions they make in calculating child and working tax credit entitlement. [155973]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' guidance for dealing with appeals in relation to tax credits decisions can be found in the Tax Credits Manual which is available on their website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/appeals/ntc0040000.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid to recipients of tax credits in Bournemouth in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [155775]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency and county, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for 2005-06, is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Supplements on Payments in 2005-06. Geographical Analysis", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2006-07 tax credit awards are due to be published in May 2008 when family circumstances and incomes have been finalised.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 10 October 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: United Nations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department has on reports that six UN Development Programme staff in Burma have been involved in corruption. [155590]

Mr. Malik: UN Development Programme (UNDP) has recently taken disciplinary action against four UNDP staff in Burma for unsatisfactory performance or for inappropriate use of project resources, totalling about £125.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156649]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: HM Treasury issue accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies (under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000) and to trading funds (under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973).

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Department for International Development did not issue any accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to any of the Department's sponsored bodies.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155873]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested is available on the DFID website http://www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractslet.asp for the calendar years 2005, 2006 and up to and including September 2007. Providing the same level of information for 2004 would incur disproportionate cost. The information on our website does not include low value contracts issued by DFID's overseas offices and would also incur disproportionate cost to compile.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will break down in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms columns 1 to 8 of the subhead detail tables for his Department contained in the (i) main estimate, (ii) winter supplementary estimate and (iii) spring supplementary estimate for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08. [155998]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information in the Part II: Subhead detail table of our Supply Estimates is not broken down by near-cash/non-cash. There are no other published documents that provide a near-cash/non-cash breakdown of this data, though the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) publication (copies of which are in the House Library) provides a useful near-cash/non-cash DEL split (see Tables 1.6, 1.7 and 2.1 of PESA 2007 for data for years 2001-02 to 2007-08).

Data taken from Supply Estimates is not necessarily readily compatible with a near-cash/non-cash split, which is used only within the Departmental Expenditure Limit budgetary controls applied by HM Treasury. Providing a near-cash/non-cash split against the columns in the Part II: Subhead detail table in our Estimate would only be possible at disproportionate cost. The ability of Departments to provide such a split will depend partly on the extent of reconciliations between voted provision and budgetary limits.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many applications he received for the Governance and Transparency Fund; and whether he plans to publish a list of *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful applications. [156068]

Mr. Malik: The deadline for proposals to the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) was midnight on 28 September 2007. We received 265 proposals by this deadline.

We aim to make final funding decisions in December 2007. In accordance with normal practice for our central funding schemes, we will post a full list of successful proposals on the DFID website once all applicants have been informed of the decisions. The question of whether or not to publish the names of unsuccessful applicants, bearing in mind the need to balance respect for confidentiality with a desire to be as open as possible, raises a number of issues; we are currently considering these.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's *(a)* administrative expenditure, *(b)* other current expenditure, *(c)* grant expenditure, *(d)* operating appropriations in aid (A in A), *(e)* capital and *(f)* non-operating A in A outturn, broken down in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms, was for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [155997]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Part II: Subhead detail table in Main Estimates for each year provide outturn data for one prior year, but these are only broken down to net total resources for each section in the table.

There are no other published documents that provide a near-cash/non-cash breakdown of these data, though the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) publication (copies of which are in the House Library) provides a useful near-cash/non-cash DEL split (see Tables 1.6, 1.7 and 2.1 of PESA 2007 for data for years 2001-02 to 2007-08). However, we have been able to provide a near-cash/non-cash split against the columns in the Part II: Subhead detail table in our Estimate by identifying non-cash items (cost of capital charges, depreciation, new/adjusted provisions, notional audit fees and other notional charges, losses on disposal of fixed assets) shown in the notes to our Resource Accounts. All other items are near cash. The Resource Accounts do not split non-cash items between 'Other current expenditure' and 'Grants', therefore all non-cash programme items have been allocated to 'Other Current Expenditure' in the following table.

Data taken from Supply Estimates or resource accounts are not necessarily readily compatible with a near-cash/non-cash split, which is used only within the Departmental Expenditure Limit budgetary controls applied by HM Treasury.

£000

		Administrative expenditure	Other current expenditure	Grant expenditure	Operating A in A	Capital	Non-operating A in A
2001-02	Near cash	71,760	12,275	2,212,501	8,807	70,587	51,095
	Non cash	13,936	178,313	—	—	—	—
2002-03	Near cash	38,611	44,919	2,548,925	12,141	56,120	39,093
	Non cash	59,534	194,713	—	—	—	—
2003-04	Near cash	169,030	38,707	2,589,812	5,499	68,120	40,777
	Non cash	31,525	50,344	—	—	—	—
2004-05	Near cash	190,624	17,905	2,933,229	6,546	820,926	32,972
	Non cash	26,964	130,216	—	—	—	—
2005-06	Near cash	201,720	483,685	3,066,508	18,690	52,424	34,145
	Non cash	25,132	131,828	—	—	—	—
2006-07	Near cash	197,559	508,616	3,496,403	10,829	29,333	35,320
	Non cash	50,892	460,968	—	—	—	—

Overseas Aid: Water

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assistance his Department is providing to aid the development of water operator partnerships; [156342]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential value of water operator partnerships. [156343]

Mr. Thomas: DFID officials have been in discussion with NGOs such as Oxfam, WDM, WaterAid and others for over a year about more effective ways to support public utilities. We recognise that promoting partnerships is an opportunity to help water utilities identify what works, build their capacity and support them to deliver better services to poor people.

In April of this year, DFID funded regional workshops in Asia and Africa. Working with utility managers, these explored the possibilities of establishing regional partnerships—and examined the support they might need. We have also agreed to fund work to share the lessons from public water utilities about what has worked best in individual countries and we will look to see what can be learnt from partnerships between utilities.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of retail price competition through the application of regulation in broadband on the range and price of services available to consumers; and what assessment he has made of the merits of applying similar openness of access to the market for premium content and pay TV. [155936]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Minister. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Companies: Takeovers

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review the takeover code in the light of the instability at Northern Rock. [156044]

Mr. Timms: The takeover code is issued and administered by the takeover panel, which operates independently from Government. Changes to the code, if considered necessary, would be made by the panel. The code ensures that shareholders' interests are protected during the course of a takeover bid.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many

and what proportion of staff in his Department and its predecessor took early retirement in the last five years, broken down by grade; and at what cost. [148742]

Mr. Thomas: A total of 473 staff in the former Department of Trade and Industry took early retirement at age over 50 from April 2002 to March 2007 at a total cost of £15.34 million, broken down as follows:

	Number of early retirements	*Cost of lump sums (£)*	*Proportion of depart staff including UKTI (percentage)*
2002-03	19	704,188.73	0.4
2003-04	12	566,127.20	0.3
2004-05	271	6,962,183.32	6
2005-06	113	4,934,923.32	3
2006-07	58	2,172,697.92	2
Total	473	15,340,120.49	

A breakdown of the grade for this number of staff could only be established at a disproportionate cost.

Public Holidays

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures have been taken to ensure that *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees are aware of the changes in statutory holiday entitlements and what the statutory holiday entitlements are, and during what dates, during the transitional period of their introduction. [155806]

Mr. McFadden: The Government undertook two full consultations on the proposals to increase the holiday entitlement, holding a number of regional meetings and working closely with unions and employer organisations. Specific efforts were made to engage small businesses and employers in key sectors likely to be particularly affected. The ability to receive email updates on the proposals was offered and over eight thousand people requested updates on progress. The proposals also attracted considerable media coverage on a number of occasions.

Detailed guidance for employers and workers, including an interactive calculator for holiday entitlements, has been placed on the Business Link and Direct.gov websites respectively, with supporting material on BERR's own website.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153065]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent £21,102 on flowers in 2006-07 (this is the last 12 months for which audited expenditure figures are available).

WALES

Lone Parents

8. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents with children aged between five and 16 years in Wales he expects to move into work as a result of the Government's proposed changes to the benefit regime. [156173]

Mr. Hain: The UK Government's goal is to increase the number of working lone parents in the UK by 300,000.

Rail Services

9. **Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister and the Secretary of State for Transport on railway services in Wales. [156174]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend and I regularly meet with ministerial colleagues both in Whitehall and the Assembly Government to discuss issues affecting Wales, including rail services.

Clean Coal

10. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the future for clean coal in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [156175]

Mr. Hain: Clean coal is central to our goal of developing a diverse energy supply in Wales, which dramatically reduces our carbon emissions.

Animal Health Measures

11. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the cross-border variations in emergency animal health measures. [156176]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for DEFRA on a range of issues, including animal health measures.

The recent crises in animal health and our Government's reaction prove the seriousness with which we take these issues, and that the procedures in place to deal with such sudden events are working well.

Heroin

12. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last discussed the average street price of heroin in Wales with the Home Secretary. [156177]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on matters affecting Wales including such matters as drug-related crime.

RAF St. Athan

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress has been made on infrastructure projects in support of the Defence Training Review project at RAF St. Athan; and if he will make a statement. [156148]

Mr. Hain: Negotiations between the Ministry of Defence, the Welsh Assembly Government and Metrix are continuing on delivering Package 1 quickly, and in addressing the remaining affordability issues to deliver Package 2.

On 3 October the Welsh Assembly Government announced that public exhibitions are under way on obtaining the public's views on improving access to Cardiff airport, demonstrating their commitment to improving the road infrastructure to the airport and which will no doubt also benefit the DTR at St. Athan.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many assaults there were on school teachers in 2005-06 which led to exclusions, broken down by *(a)* by category of assault and *(b)* local education authority; and if he will make a statement. [154523]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of assaults on school teachers is not collected centrally.

The Department does collect information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions from schools due to physical assault against an adult. The latest information is shown in the following tables.

However, due to underlying changes in the data collection, information on the reasons for exclusion is only available for maintained secondary schools for 2005-06.

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
	England[3]	62,670	8,240	12,730	79,370	5,270	3,370	2,620
	North East[4]	2,650	370	590	3,560	230	130	110
841	Darlington	165	27	65	294	[5]—	9	6
840	Durham	644	62	109	864	45	14	15
390	Gateshead	68	3	13	113	22	5	0
805	Hartlepool	62	9	44	133	14	7	6
806	Middlesbrough	127	22	26	188	15	9	7
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	292	58	42	393	27	9	16
392	North Tyneside	176	21	44	229	19	14	13
929	Northumberland	453	53	74	468	26	15	16
807	Redcar and Cleveland	144	22	30	152	9	4	5
393	South Tyneside	164	21	55	232	19	19	13
808	Stockton-on-Tees	148	30	47	292	13	5	11
394	Sunderland	211	43	39	206	16	16	[5]—
	North West[4, 6]	8,480	1,240	1,780	11,730	700	490	380
889	Blackburn with Darwen	195	36	26	226	11	19	9
890	Blackpool	233	42	51	221	7	6	7
350	Bolton	410	77	87	630	22	30	23
351	Bury[6]	334	24	105	369	45	15	13
875	Cheshire	980	85	221	1,335	41	31	31
909	Cumbria	659	69	165	943	61	27	31
876	Halton	110	25	24	186	13	[5]—	11
340	Knowsley	116	23	26	169	11	12	9
888	Lancashire	1,357	158	213	1,688	106	78	59
341	Liverpool	301	44	50	269	31	28	4
352	Manchester	753	229	164	1,009	70	38	43
353	Oldham	264	48	66	435	10	37	12
354	Rochdale	287	29	43	289	51	17	13
355	Salford	261	52	39	400	16	17	12
343	Sefton	73	23	29	115	11	13	17
342	St. Helens	114	37	36	287	11	3	4
356	Stockport	425	55	77	650	35	28	12
357	Tameside	408	40	68	555	38	28	7
358	Trafford	200	27	55	302	12	18	11

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
877	Warrington	218	24	61	516	5	16	8
359	Wigan	324	48	101	563	28	9	17
344	Wirral	462	46	74	575	60	20	29
	Yorkshire and the Humber	7,430	1,140	1,450	10,280	550	460	330
370	Barnsley	207	22	29	250	15	11	9
380	Bradford	860	159	120	1,091	54	73	50
381	Calderdale	356	45	61	381	25	31	13
371	Doncaster	386	50	78	708	21	18	20
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	543	77	123	750	24	19	26
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	389	123	60	716	27	40	12
382	Kirklees	558	90	134	862	39	26	11
383	Leeds	1,043	200	160	1,470	91	76	44
812	North East Lincolnshire	265	47	51	360	29	9	19
813	North Lincolnshire	282	31	30	309	24	12	8
815	North Yorkshire	494	86	132	952	48	27	34
372	Rotherham	434	35	152	576	24	25	14
373	Sheffield	841	86	173	862	77	40	26
384	Wakefield	607	55	97	776	34	42	33
816	York	162	30	45	214	13	10	9
	East Midlands[3]	5,290	750	970	6,500	520	250	200
831	Derby	179	37	45	248	41	20	10
830	Derbyshire	684	76	74	845	76	32	18
856	Leicester	502	70	108	560	41	15	20
855	Leicestershire	755	83	166	1,054	72	40	31
925	Lincolnshire	625	78	136	695	62	38	34
928	Northamptonshire	1,114	134	195	1,423	73	46	39
892	Nottingham	379	109	71	355	40	13	17
891	Nottinghamshire	1,034	159	167	1,299	107	47	35
857	Rutland	13	4	8	20	9	[3]	0
	West Midlands[3]	7,060	890	1,230	8,080	650	410	290
330	Birmingham	1,733	214	213	1,216	176	99	68
331	Coventry	383	63	82	433	46	21	9
332	Dudley	482	41	114	626	56	31	38
884	Herefordshire	170	15	33	274	3	4	4
333	Sandwell	351	77	73	378	28	23	12
893	Shropshire	320	36	43	372	47	9	11
334	Staffordshire	282	29	69	301	13	23	14
860	Solihull	967	72	221	1,325	80	31	17
861	Stoke-on-Trent	362	56	57	409	25	52	17
894	Telford and Wrekin	348	50	55	512	21	4	17
335	Walsall	334	52	40	335	21	22	10
937	Warwickshire	528	45	109	806	51	49	24
336	Wolverhampton	296	56	34	358	35	17	23
885	Worcestershire	506	87	88	734	45	25	22
	East of England[3]	6,250	700	1,360	8,930	540	430	290
820	Bedfordshire	372	67	101	611	45	33	13
873	Cambridgeshire	477	36	110	559	63	30	24
881	Essex	2,022	211	388	2,807	135	116	77
919	Hertfordshire	929	109	293	1,326	95	97	62
821	Luton	249	48	36	303	14	16	10
926	Norfolk	649	65	92	1,194	67	48	51
874	Peterborough	377	21	84	308	28	25	14
882	Southend-on-Sea	126	19	55	227	8	6	10
935	Suffolk	822	111	170	1,216	74	31	16

Maintained secondary schools[1] [2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
883	Thurrock	230	16	30	379	13	31	12
	London[3] [4]	8,630	1,260	1,630	6,920	770	350	400
	Inner London[3] [4]	2,850	500	490	1,900	230	70	110
202	Camden[4]	190	41	50	175	9	9	7
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
204	Hackney	290	42	39	134	16	4	[5]
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	77	7	9	30	4	0	3
309	Haringey	288	55	32	198	8	0	21
206	Islington	151	32	28	109	27	5	3
207	Kensington and Chelsea	49	15	18	44	5	[5]	0
208	Lambeth	236	20	38	145	15	[5]	6
209	Lewisham	362	62	54	231	30	11	13
316	Newham	516	84	78	277	50	10	26
210	Southwark	166	28	57	113	14	[5]	6
211	Tower Hamlets	192	56	34	183	31	9	4
212	Wandsworth	186	24	25	144	10	[5]	6
213	Westminster	142	35	25	118	11	14	9
	Outer London[3]	5,790	760	1,140	5,020	540	280	300
301	Barking and Dagenham	113	31	21	162	[5]	3	15
302	Barnet	424	50	64	227	17	18	36
303	Bexley	404	41	71	373	18	16	16
304	Brent	518	81	63	314	64	13	5
305	Bromley	170	20	43	166	7	11	18
306	Croydon	248	44	63	171	21	5	19
307	Ealing	326	15	72	243	52	37	9
308	Enfield	442	72	121	374	35	16	41
203	Greenwich	537	50	140	577	50	32	30
310	Harrow	319	27	65	206	23	10	10
311	Havering	219	23	37	170	33	29	15
312	Hillingdon	192	34	34	258	27	22	13
313	Hounslow	258	33	50	256	29	6	11
314	Kingston upon Thames	115	10	24	136	5	4	[5]
315	Merton	236	49	33	191	12	5	4
317	Redbridge	332	25	71	258	30	10	12
318	Richmond upon Thames	131	25	45	223	18	6	11
319	Sutton	289	26	58	263	40	25	11
320	Waltham Forest	514	106	69	448	61	13	21
	South East[3]	10,630	1,170	2,330	14,220	840	610	350
867	Bracknell Forest	136	15	11	168	5	5	5
846	Brighton and Hove	316	41	73	579	25	18	19
825	Buckinghamshire	490	32	74	465	30	35	19
845	East Sussex	793	72	161	1,201	35	36	15
850	Hampshire	1,748	211	430	2,420	148	89	65
921	Isle of Wight	126	25	43	292	8	8	7
886	Kent	1,913	179	360	2,000	172	116	60
887	Medway	555	53	117	608	28	36	29
826	Milton Keynes	215	23	35	234	22	10	0
931	Oxfordshire	614	93	121	1,186	50	43	23
851	Portsmouth	451	30	74	406	17	22	[5]
870	Reading	83	14	56	134	7	3	0
871	Slough	89	16	17	36	12	3	8
852	Southampton	538	88	84	741	41	13	11
936	Surrey	1,248	101	334	1,682	144	100	45
869	West Berkshire	156	20	55	227	17	4	3
938	West Sussex	921	120	239	1,458	63	53	20
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	113	10	18	150	10	6	5

Maintained secondary schools[1,2]: number of fixed period exclusions by reason of exclusion 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
872	Wokingham	122	23	27	229	10	6	11
	South West[3]	6,240	710	1,400	9,160	480	240	270
800	Bath and North East Somerset	228	21	70	297	28	9	5
837	Bournemouth	147	25	21	196	3	12	0
801	Bristol, City of	627	110	91	741	43	18	20
908	Cornwall	435	42	105	609	44	23	23
878	Devon	1,022	109	244	1,768	84	27	32
835	Dorset	387	24	75	358	14	12	15
916	Gloucestershire	651	45	182	896	37	22	38
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	255	18	60	231	26	7	4
879	Plymouth	254	34	26	362	13	12	18
836	Poole	151	17	38	492	3	[5]—	5
933	Somerset	734	104	185	1,464	48	19	42
803	South Gloucestershire	315	30	89	533	39	20	10
866	Swindon	281	40	51	265	21	14	18
880	Torbay	193	23	34	251	19	7	[5]—
865	Wiltshire	561	67	127	695	57	37	37

		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total[3]*
	England[3]	8,360	9,390	7,770	72,340	71,720	343,840
	North East[3]	340	360	250	3,360	2,950	14,910
841	Darlington	30	33	18	608	248	1,510
840	Durham	87	78	58	771	955	3,700
390	Gateshead	10	3	4	56	144	440
805	Hartlepool	10	19	18	101	47	470
806	Middlesbrough	8	32	14	243	107	800
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	20	39	23	310	203	1,430
392	North Tyneside	18	24	26	126	137	850
929	Northumberland	77	42	35	537	323	2,120
807	Redcar and Cleveland	11	28	14	168	167	750
393	South Tyneside	26	19	18	141	239	970
808	Stockton-on-Tees	28	24	17	159	96	870
394	Sunderland	12	23	8	144	285	1,000
	North West[3,4]	1,470	1,310	1,020	10,580	10,460	49,640
889	Blackburn with Darwen	19	18	18	150	93	820
890	Blackpool	35	16	14	271	70	970
350	Bolton	36	85	46	856	172	2,470
351	Bury[4]	58	44	33	459	201	1,700
875	Cheshire	266	139	117	956	559	4,760
909	Cumbria	87	96	94	995	1,270	4,500
876	Halton	30	22	12	159	30	620
340	Knowsley	15	19	10	111	191	710
888	Lancashire	227	169	164	1,330	1,493	7,040
341	Liverpool	34	81	22	378	746	1,990
352	Manchester	96	152	99	859	971	4,480
353	Oldham	60	31	34	231	921	2,150
354	Rochdale	33	48	43	315	428	1,600
355	Salford	43	38	23	463	51	1,420
343	Sefton	21	6	22	86	168	580
342	St. Helens	31	32	16	199	295	1,070
356	Stockport	73	68	52	525	539	2,540
357	Tameside	61	54	35	459	432	2,190

		Drug and alcohol related	Damage	Theft	Persistent disruptive behaviour	Other	Total[2]
358	Trafford	34	27	26	126	358	1,200
877	Warrington	52	45	27	275	325	1,570
359	Wigan	60	39	49	807	555	2,600
344	Wirral	100	77	64	565	593	2,670
	Yorkshire and the Humber	990	1,190	760	10,700	6,790	42,050
370	Barnsley	28	35	21	201	222	1,050
380	Bradford	104	93	104	797	726	4,230
381	Calderdale	90	49	29	297	380	1,760
371	Doncaster	38	64	27	633	528	2,570
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	70	92	57	847	457	3,090
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	26	87	22	619	247	2,370
382	Kirklees	55	76	71	688	819	3,430
383	Leeds	141	155	153	1,595	942	6,070
812	North East Lincolnshire	13	51	13	478	634	1,970
813	North Lincolnshire	76	45	20	430	121	1,390
815	North Yorkshire	150	129	72	1,032	106	3,260
372	Rotherham	23	69	17	405	344	2,120
373	Sheffield	72	98	37	1,088	714	4,110
384	Wakefield	67	114	68	1,298	433	3,620
816	York	38	28	48	295	118	1,010
	East Midlands[1]	670	770	550	6,050	5,920	28,440
831	Derby	21	29	20	324	289	1,260
830	Derbyshire	82	92	73	516	1,468	4,040
856	Leicester	55	113	44	413	425	2,370
855	Leicestershire	112	128	93	1,242	497	4,270
925	Lincolnshire	84	74	79	647	373	2,930
928	Northamptonshire	155	149	119	1,338	999	5,780
892	Nottingham	38	43	32	446	248	1,790
891	Nottinghamshire	120	136	87	1,112	1,616	5,920
857	Rutland	6	[5]	4	13	7	90
	West Midlands[1]	690	1,160	780	6,450	8,700	36,390
330	Birmingham	122	256	201	1,213	3,230	8,740
331	Coventry	45	81	47	413	783	2,410
332	Dudley	35	91	49	564	718	2,850
884	Herefordshire	15	23	24	93	306	960
333	Sandwell	38	80	54	367	356	1,840
893	Shropshire	43	35	40	242	487	1,690
334	Staffordshire	10	86	41	312	241	1,420
860	Solihull	98	118	80	885	773	4,670
861	Stoke-on-Trent	9	46	36	292	277	1,640
894	Telford and Wrekin	46	49	17	412	292	1,820
335	Walsall	16	56	16	302	133	1,340
937	Warwickshire	117	89	68	469	545	2,900
336	Wolverhampton	29	47	36	233	287	1,450
885	Worcestershire	66	107	71	653	267	2,670
	East of England[1]	1,130	960	870	7,690	7,750	36,920
820	Bedfordshire	66	77	43	552	424	2,400
873	Cambridgeshire	119	73	87	503	624	2,710
881	Essex	356	287	246	2,531	2,787	11,960
919	Hertfordshire	271	189	211	1,250	1,217	6,050
821	Luton	17	22	40	207	302	1,260
926	Norfolk	110	89	44	662	661	3,730
874	Peterborough	49	46	48	384	124	1,510
882	Southend-on-Sea	22	20	29	125	273	920
935	Suffolk	100	117	97	1,187	824	4,770
883	Thurrock	16	43	29	292	517	1,610

		Drug and alcohol related	Damage	Theft	Persistent disruptive behaviour	Other	Total[2]
	London[3, 4]	680	1,100	1,470	6,070	9,310	38,600
	Inner London[3, 4]	160	260	380	1,780	2,740	11,460
202	Camden[4]	28	30	33	130	118	820
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
204	Hackney	12	24	15	151	103	830
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	12	6	23	48	69	290
309	Haringey	15	34	42	217	338	1,250
206	Islington	12	8	12	51	91	530
207	Kensington and Chelsea	6	17	16	98	84	350
208	Lambeth	9	18	28	120	370	1,010
209	Lewisham	3	46	42	249	242	1,350
316	Newham	15	18	67	292	506	1,940
210	Southwark	12	12	19	149	143	720
211	Tower Hamlets	10	28	31	75	233	890
212	Wandsworth	15	7	26	105	304	850
213	Westminster	8	14	26	92	143	640
	Outer London[4]	530	840	1,090	4,290	6,570	27,140
301	Barking and Dagenham	4	29	25	160	86	650
302	Barnet	39	25	115	231	517	1,760
303	Bexley	32	82	49	150	410	1,660
304	Brent	16	40	55	331	254	1,750
305	Bromley	14	21	33	93	330	930
306	Croydon	30	32	55	216	81	990
307	Ealing	55	80	69	274	788	2,020
308	Enfield	39	55	105	396	250	1,950
203	Greenwich	52	65	52	482	406	2,470
310	Harrow	4	30	77	147	251	1,170
311	Havering	20	38	41	104	508	1,240
312	Hillingdon	27	70	46	192	724	1,640
313	Hounslow	27	38	55	159	258	1,180
314	Kingston upon Thames	8	22	29	77	115	550
315	Merton	31	45	28	158	256	1,050
317	Redbridge	30	48	65	206	475	1,560
318	Richmond upon Thames	23	20	37	143	35	720
319	Sutton	17	30	84	328	212	1,380
320	Waltham Forest	58	68	68	441	613	2,480
	South East[3]	1,380	1,450	1,370	13,240	12,690	60,260
867	Bracknell Forest	15	16	12	153	60	600
846	Brighton and Hove	49	46	38	552	244	2,000
825	Buckinghamshire	65	75	102	273	600	2,260
845	East Sussex	92	105	106	1,055	1,516	5,190
850	Hampshire	273	195	249	2,516	1,162	9,510
921	Isle of Wight	42	17	10	212	364	1,150
886	Kent	126	259	195	1,798	3,327	10,510
887	Medway	32	72	28	1,036	349	2,940
826	Milton Keynes	45	27	45	208	210	1,070
931	Oxfordshire	159	114	85	838	306	3,630
851	Portsmouth	56	37	28	408	558	2,090
870	Reading	14	11	9	116	80	530
871	Slough	4	22	11	38	190	450
852	Southampton	28	62	45	520	341	2,510
936	Surrey	187	186	219	1,398	2,357	8,000
869	West Berkshire	37	35	16	280	285	1,140
938	West Sussex	126	125	119	1,500	483	5,230
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	15	20	16	116	137	620
872	Wokingham	19	22	37	218	117	850
	South West[3]	1,010	1,090	690	8,200	7,150	36,630
800	Bath and North East Somerset	40	32	33	228	153	1,140
837	Bournemouth	28	12	25	140	118	730

		Drug and alcohol related	Damage	Theft	Persistent disruptive behaviour	Other	Total
801	Bristol, City of	52	135	35	730	740	3,340
908	Cornwall	77	54	37	372	726	2,550
878	Devon	166	143	125	1,259	1,764	6,740
835	Dorset	60	64	71	378	496	1,950
916	Gloucestershire	85	104	104	873	1,058	4,100
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	51	48	20	110	325	1,160
879	Plymouth	61	36	21	232	118	1,190
836	Poole	33	32	25	538	74	1,410
933	Somerset	142	130	55	1,264	133	4,320
803	South Gloucestershire	38	68	55	324	644	2,170
866	Swindon	12	68	16	440	479	1,710
880	Torbay	28	57	10	243	96	960
865	Wiltshire	137	110	59	1,068	221	3,180

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] Totals for England, each region and across all reasons for exclusion have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] There were four fixed period exclusions in Camden and Bury local authorities for which reason for exclusion has not been established. These have been included in the total column only.
[5] One or two exclusions.
Source:
School Census

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion (estimates)[3] 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	Physical assault against an adult	Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	Bullying	Racist abuse	Sexual misconduct
	England[4]	1,260	740	330	900	80	30	110
	North East[4]	60	50	10	60	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
841	Darlington	6	5	[5]—	9	0	0	0
840	Durham	10	7	4	15	0	0	0
390	Gateshead	3	5	[5]—	6	0	0	0
805	Hartlepool	6	[5]—	[5]—	3	0	[5]—	0
806	Middlesbrough	[5]—	[5]—	0	[5]—	0	0	[5]—
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	7	13	0	5	0	0	0
392	North Tyneside	[5]—	0	[5]—	[5]—	0	0	0
929	Northumberland	15	10	[5]—	8	[5]—	0	0
807	Redcar and Cleveland	3	[5]—	0	[5]—	0	0	0
393	South Tyneside	3	4	0	[5]—	0	0	0
808	Stockton-on-Tees	[5]—	[5]—	0	5	0	0	[5]—
394	Sunderland	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	0	0	0
	North West[4,5]	170	120	40	140	10	[5]—	10
889	Blackburn with Darwen	6	3	0	7	0	0	0
890	Blackpool	9	9	[5]—	3	0	0	[5]—
350	Bolton	6	7	0	0	0	0	0
351	Bury	6	0	[5]—	6	[5]—	0	0
875	Cheshire	19	12	8	16	[5]—	0	0
909	Cumbria	[5]—	7	3	5	0	0	[5]—
876	Halton	12	4	[5]—	5	0	0	0
340	Knowsley	14	3	4	4	0	0	[5]—
888	Lancashire	28	26	5	30	4	[5]—	0
341	Liverpool	13	[5]—	0	5	[5]—	0	0
352	Manchester	7	11	0	8	0	0	0
353	Oldham	13	3	[5]—	7	0	0	[5]—
354	Rochdale[5]	7	4	[5]—	4	0	0	0
355	Salford	7	11	[5]—	8	[5]—	0	[5]—
343	Sefton	4	3	[5]—	5	0	0	0
342	St. Helens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
356	Stockport	7	3	[5]—	9	0	0	0
357	Tameside	3	8	[5]—	[5]—	0	[5]—	0

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion (estimates)[3] 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
358	Trafford	3	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	0	0
877	Warrington	[c]	3	0	3	0	0	0
359	Wigan	4	3	[c]	3	0	0	[c]
344	Wirral	[c]	4	[c]	7	0	0	[c]
	Yorkshire and the Humber	120	70	20	80	[z]	[z]	10
370	Barnsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
380	Bradford	17	6	4	6	[c]	[c]	[c]
381	Calderdale	6	3	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	0
371	Doncaster	6	4	3	9	0	0	0
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	4	3	[c]	[c]	[c]	0	[c]
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	6	14	[c]	6	0	0	[c]
382	Kirklees	7	7	0	10	0	0	0
383	Leeds	19	12	[c]	8	0	0	[c]
812	North East Lincolnshire	[c]	[c]	0	3	0	0	0
813	North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
815	North Yorkshire	3	[c]	[c]	9	0	0	[c]
372	Rotherham	4	[c]	[c]	5	0	[c]	0
373	Sheffield	27	5	4	14	[c]	0	[c]
384	Wakefield	13	4	0	6	0	0	[c]
816	York	10	3	4	7	0	0	0
	East Midlands[4]	120	80	30	100	10	[z]	10
831	Derby	4	[c]	[c]	3	[c]	0	0
830	Derbyshire	18	9	[c]	6	[c]	0	0
856	Leicester	14	7	3	9	0	0	5
855	Leicestershire	18	14	4	19	6	0	[c]
925	Lincolnshire	13	8	9	17	4	4	[c]
928	Northamptonshire	16	14	4	20	[c]	0	0
892	Nottingham	7	7	[c]	8	[c]	0	0
891	Nottinghamshire	31	16	[c]	17	[c]	0	[c]
857	Rutland	0	[c]	0	0	0	0	0
	West Midlands[4]	120	80	30	110	10	10	10
330	Birmingham	42	15	12	20	3	0	8
331	Coventry	[c]	0	0	5	0	0	0
332	Dudley	[c]	5	0	16	0	[c]	[c]
884	Herefordshire	[c]	3	0	0	0	0	0
333	Sandwell	8	12	[c]	3	[c]	0	[c]
893	Shropshire	[c]	[c]	0	3	[c]	0	0
334	Solihull	9	4	[c]	3	[c]	[c]	0
860	Staffordshire	14	11	9	13	[c]	0	[c]
861	Stoke-on-Trent	3	3	[c]	3	0	[c]	0
894	Telford and Wrekin	5	6	0	4	0	0	0
335	Walsall	3	[c]	[c]	5	0	0	0
937	Warwickshire	18	6	4	13	[c]	[c]	[c]
336	Wolverhampton	3	[c]	0	0	0	0	0
885	Worcestershire	11	10	[c]	18	6	0	0
	East of England[4]	110	50	30	70	10	[z]	10
820	Bedfordshire	18	8	7	7	[c]	0	0
873	Cambridgeshire	3	[c]	0	0	[c]	0	0
881	Essex	18	11	6	21	3	0	[c]
919	Hertfordshire	28	9	8	23	[c]	[c]	[c]
821	Luton	5	3	[c]	0	0	0	0
926	Norfolk	8	5	0	8	[c]	[c]	0
874	Peterborough	7	0	[c]	5	0	0	0
882	Southend-on-Sea	4	3	[c]	[c]	0	0	0

Maintained secondary schools[1] [2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion (estimates)[3] 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
935	Suffolk	11	4	8	8	[x]	0	3
883	Thurrock	[x]	4	0	0	0	0	[x]
	London[4]	280	120	70	110	20	[?]	30
	Inner London[4]	90	50	10	30	[?]	[?]	[?]
202	Camden	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	0	0
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
204	Hackney	6	6	0	[x]	0	0	[x]
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	0	[x]	0	0	[x]	0	0
309	Haringey	3	5	[x]	3	0	0	0
206	Islington	4	[x]	0	0	0	0	[x]
207	Kensington and Chelsea	[x]	0	0	0	0	0	0
208	Lambeth	11	[x]	[x]	3	[x]	0	0
209	Lewisham	10	6	3	0	0	0	0
316	Newham	8	5	[x]	7	0	[x]	[x]
210	Southwark	13	5	5	8	0	0	0
211	Tower Hamlets	15	9	0	4	[x]	0	0
212	Wandsworth	9	4	[x]	0	0	0	[x]
213	Westminster	8	[x]	0	[x]	0	0	0
	Outer London[4]	190	70	60	80	10	[?]	30
301	Barking and Dagenham	5	3	[x]	3	0	0	5
302	Barnet	4	3	3	[x]	0	0	[x]
303	Bexley	8	3	[x]	3	0	0	0
304	Brent	20	7	[x]	6	0	0	0
305	Bromley	8	6	6	5	3	0	6
306	Croydon	23	8	11	6	[x]	0	0
307	Ealing	7	[x]	[x]	4	0	0	0
308	Enfield	13	10	[x]	7	0	[x]	7
203	Greenwich	16	[x]	8	11	[x]	[x]	[x]
310	Harrow	10	4	[x]	[x]	[x]	0	[x]
311	Havering	13	6	5	4	0	0	0
312	Hillingdon	7	6	0	4	0	0	0
313	Hounslow	15	6	[x]	8	[x]	0	[x]
314	Kingston upon Thames	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
315	Merton	9	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	0	[x]
317	Redbridge	5	[x]	5	6	[x]	0	3
318	Richmond upon Thames	3	[x]	3	[x]	0	0	0
319	Sutton	7	[x]	[x]	6	0	0	0
320	Waltham Forest	9	[x]	3	[x]	0	0	0
	South East[4]	170	90	60	150	10	[?]	20
867	Bracknell Forest	0	[x]	[x]	[x]	0	0	0
846	Brighton and Hove	3	4	0	[x]	0	0	0
825	Buckinghamshire	8	7	0	7	0	0	4
845	East Sussex	16	4	4	4	0	0	0
850	Hampshire	29	15	11	29	0	0	[x]
921	Isle of Wight	[x]	[x]	[x]	4	0	0	0
886	Kent	36	14	10	31	[x]	0	6
887	Medway	3	4	0	4	0	0	0
826	Milton Keynes	8	3	[x]	6	0	0	0
931	Oxfordshire	7	[x]	3	13	[x]	0	[x]
851	Portsmouth	[x]	3	0	[x]	0	0	0
870	Reading	3	[x]	[x]	[x]	0	0	0
871	Slough	[x]	[x]	[x]	0	0	0	0
852	Southampton	3	6	[x]	[x]	0	0	0
936	Surrey	19	4	13	21	4	0	[x]
869	West Berkshire	7	4	0	5	0	0	0
938	West Sussex	18	10	7	10	[x]	[x]	0

Maintained secondary schools[1] [2]: number of permanent exclusions by reason of exclusion (estimates)[3] 2005-06 by local authority area

		Number of fixed period exclusions						
		Physical assault against a pupil	*Physical assault against an adult*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil*	*Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult*	*Bullying*	*Racist abuse*	*Sexual misconduct*
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	3	[z]	0	[z]	0	0	0
872	Wokingham	8	4	6	3	0	0	[z]
	South West[4]	110	70	40	80	[?]	[?]	10
800	Bath and North East Somerset	5	[z]	[z]	[z]	0	0	0
837	Bournemouth	6	5	[z]	0	0	0	0
801	Bristol, City of	12	8	[z]	3	0	0	0
908	Cornwall	6	8	3	13	[z]	0	[z]
878	Devon	14	8	6	11	[z]	0	[z]
835	Dorset	3	[z]	[z]	[z]	0	0	0
916	Gloucestershire	9	5	6	13	0	0	[z]
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	3	[z]	0	0	0	0	0
879	Plymouth	6	11	[z]	10	[z]	[z]	3
836	Poole	4	[z]	[z]	3	0	0	0
933	Somerset	21	8	4	11	[z]	0	[z]
803	South Gloucestershire	9	4	[z]	7	0	0	[z]
866	Swindon	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
880	Torbay	4	3	0	6	0	0	0
865	Wiltshire	7	7	[z]	9	0	0	0

		Number of fixed period exclusions					
		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total*[1]
	England[4]	450	170	220	2,370	1,340	7,990
	North East[4]	30	10	10	100	50	380
841	Darlington	[z]	0	[z]	9	9	40
840	Durham	4	0	0	11	12	60
390	Gateshead	[z]	0	0	8	4	30
805	Hartlepool	[z]	0	0	7	0	20
806	Middlesbrough	0	0	0	6	[z]	10
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	3	4	6	23	3	70
392	North Tyneside	0	0	0	[z]	[z]	10
929	Northumberland	9	3	[z]	14	8	70
807	Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	[z]	8	[z]	20
393	South Tyneside	3	0	[z]	7	8	30
808	Stockton-on-Tees	[z]	[z]	0	5	[z]	20
394	Sunderland	[z]	0	0	0	0	[?]
	North West[4] [5]	60	30	40	320	170	1,120
889	Blackburn with Darwen	0	4	0	7	3	30
890	Blackpool	0	[z]	0	5	7	40
350	Bolton	[z]	[z]	[z]	14	[z]	30
351	Bury	0	[z]	[z]	[z]	[z]	20
875	Cheshire	7	3	[z]	57	11	140
909	Cumbria	8	0	[z]	13	4	40
876	Halton	[z]	[z]	0	7	0	30
340	Knowsley	0	0	[z]	6	5	40
888	Lancashire	17	4	7	78	40	240
341	Liverpool	0	[z]	4	12	15	50
352	Manchester	[z]	3	4	15	14	60
353	Oldham	4	0	[z]	6	20	60
354	Rochdale[5]	0	0	3	9	13	40
355	Salford	4	4	[z]	9	[z]	50
343	Sefton	0	0	[z]	9	3	30
342	St. Helens	0	0	0	0	0	0

		Number of fixed period exclusions					
		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total*[2]
356	Stockport	7	*	11	9	11	60
357	Tameside	3	3	0	24	8	50
358	Trafford	3	0	0	4	3	20
877	Warrington	*	0	0	12	4	30
359	Wigan	*	0	*	3	*	20
344	Wirral	4	*	0	14	5	40
	Yorkshire and the Humber	40	10	10	190	110	680
370	Barnsley	0	0	0	*	*	*
380	Bradford	6	0	0	19	17	80
381	Calderdale	10	0	*	15	7	50
371	Doncaster	*	*	0	18	7	50
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	*	3	0	7	7	30
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	*	*	*	6	6	40
382	Kirklees	0	0	*	10	9	40
383	Leeds	3	*	*	20	16	90
812	North East Lincolnshire	*	*	*	17	10	40
813	North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
815	North Yorkshire	4	*	*	16	*	40
372	Rotherham	0	*	0	8	13	40
373	Sheffield	*	4	0	26	15	100
384	Wakefield	5	0	*	14	4	50
816	York	4	0	*	13	0	40
	East Midlands[4]	50	10	10	220	120	770
831	Derby	*	0	*	8	5	30
830	Derbyshire	9	*	*	31	43	120
856	Leicester	*	*	*	6	7	60
855	Leicestershire	9	*	*	40	8	120
925	Lincolnshire	12	3	5	39	9	130
928	Northamptonshire	10	4	*	52	11	130
892	Nottingham	4	3	*	9	7	50
891	Nottinghamshire	6	0	*	36	27	160
857	Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	*
	West Midlands[4]	50	20	20	240	170	870
330	Birmingham	11	4	8	52	71	250
331	Coventry	0	*	0	*	0	10
332	Dudley	0	7	0	9	23	70
884	Herefordshire	*	0	0	10	5	20
333	Sandwell	6	*	*	19	17	70
893	Shropshire	*	0	0	3	6	20
334	Solihull	0	*	*	19	6	50
860	Staffordshire	10	0	*	35	11	110
861	Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	0	*	7	20
894	Telford and Wrekin	6	*	0	11	8	40
335	Walsall	0	0	*	7	3	20
937	Warwickshire	6	*	3	39	8	100
336	Wolverhampton	5	0	0	*	*	10
885	Worcestershire	3	*	*	26	4	80
	East of England[4]	40	20	30	260	100	730
820	Bedfordshire	6	*	4	18	9	80
873	Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	*	*	10
881	Essex	7	7	*	71	27	180
919	Hertfordshire	11	*	8	82	26	200
821	Luton	*	0	3	11	3	30
926	Norfolk	11	3	3	24	7	70
874	Peterborough	0	0	*	13	*	30
882	Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	14	7	30
935	Suffolk	5	5	3	19	12	80

		Number of fixed period exclusions					
		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total*[c]
883	Thurrock	[b]—	0	0	9	5	20
	London[a]	70	10	50	320	290	1,360
	Inner London[a]	10	[b]—	10	50	110	370
202	Camden	0	0	0	4	[b]—	10
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	
204	Hackney	0	0	0	3	8	30
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	4	0	0	4	0	10
309	Haringey	[b]—	0	0	0	18	30
206	Islington	0	0	[b]—	[b]—	4	10
207	Kensington and Chelsea	[b]—	0	[b]—	6	[b]—	10
208	Lambeth	3	0	0	4	5	30
209	Lewisham	0	0	0	3	5	30
316	Newham	0	0	[b]—	10	22	60
210	Southwark	0	0	0	0	3	40
211	Tower Hamlets	[b]—	[b]—	3	3	23	60
212	Wandsworth	[b]—	0	[b]—	9	15	40
213	Westminster	0	0	0	5	3	20
	Outer London[a]	60	10	40	270	180	990
301	Barking and Dagenham	0	0	[b]—	13	7	40
302	Barnet	3	0	[b]—	13	10	40
303	Bexley	[b]—	[b]—	0	14	16	50
304	Brent	[b]—	0	0	29	13	80
305	Bromley	5	[b]—	0	19	23	80
306	Croydon	6	[b]—	7	33	13	110
307	Ealing	7	[b]—	6	17	12	70
308	Enfield	[b]—	0	3	20	8	70
203	Greenwich	[b]—	0	[b]—	13	18	70
310	Harrow	[b]—	0	0	3	3	30
311	Havering	6	0	[b]—	6	7	50
312	Hillingdon	[b]—	[b]—	[b]—	8	22	50
313	Hounslow	7	[b]—	[b]—	32	4	80
314	Kingston upon Thames	[b]—	0	[b]—	0	[b]—	10
315	Merton	[b]—	0	3	9	3	30
317	Redbridge	[b]—	[b]—	3	9	5	40
318	Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	6	[b]—	20
319	Sutton	5	0	4	6	3	30
320	Waltham Forest	3	[b]—	0	17	9	50
	South East[a]	70	30	40	430	240	1,310
867	Bracknell Forest	3	0	0	12	4	20
846	Brighton and Hove	[b]—	4	[b]—	12	[b]—	30
825	Buckinghamshire	5	[b]—	[b]—	8	12	50
845	East Sussex	5	3	[b]—	22	17	80
850	Hampshire	4	3	4	50	10	160
921	Isle of Wight	[b]—	[b]—	0	[b]—	[b]—	10
886	Kent	12	7	12	78	101	310
887	Medway	[b]—	0	0	17	5	40
826	Milton Keynes	0	0	4	10	10	50
931	Oxfordshire	5	[b]—	0	24	6	70
851	Portsmouth	0	3	0	[b]—	4	10
870	Reading	0	[b]—	0	9	3	20
871	Slough	0	0	0	0	[b]—	[b]—
852	Southampton	[b]—	0	[b]—	5	[b]—	20
936	Surrey	6	0	[b]—	79	34	180
869	West Berkshire	5	3	[b]—	13	9	50
938	West Sussex	17	[b]—	3	77	10	160
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	8	3	20
872	Wokingham	[b]—	[b]—	4	6	3	30

		Number of fixed period exclusions					
		Drug and alcohol related	*Damage*	*Theft*	*Persistent disruptive behaviour*	*Other*	*Total*[5]
	South West[4]	40	20	20	290	80	770
800	Bath and North East Somerset	4	4	[6]	15	3	40
837	Bournemouth	[6]	0	[6]	0	0	20
801	Bristol, City of	4	0	3	15	7	50
908	Cornwall	3	[6]	[6]	37	14	90
878	Devon	[6]	0	[6]	40	16	100
835	Dorset	[6]	0	[6]	7	3	20
916	Gloucestershire	11	[6]	[6]	48	20	120
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	[7]
802	North Somerset	4	0	0	5	0	10
879	Plymouth	[6]	[6]	[6]	13	[6]	50
836	Poole	0	[6]	[6]	13	0	30
933	Somerset	5	3	[6]	31	3	90
803	South Gloucestershire	[6]	0	[6]	9	8	40
866	Swindon	0	[6]	0	15	3	30
880	Torbay	0	0	0	14	[6]	20
865	Wiltshire	[6]	3	[6]	33	4	70

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] Estimates based on incomplete pupil level data.
[4] Totals for England, each region and across all reasons for exclusion have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[5] There are two permanent exclusions in Rochdale local authority for which reason for exclusion has not been established. These have been included in the total column only.
[6] One or two exclusions
[7] — Less than five exclusions
Source:
School Census

TREASURY

Employment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* women, *(b)* single parents and *(c)* people were in work in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997; [156033]

(2) what the level of *(a)* adult and *(b)* youth unemployment was in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997; [156035]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. The relevant tables have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about employment and unemployment. (156032, 156033, 156034, 156035)

These questions ask for the same information as questions received in July this year, and I refer you to the answer given in *Official Report* volume 463 of 26 July, column 1460.

However, since the previous questions were answered, we now have new employment and unemployment data from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for April 2006 to March 2007, and the April to June 2007 Labour Force Survey (LFS) household dataset.

As in the previous answer, Table 1, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were in employment, for the 12 months ending in March 2007 from the APS. The table also shows employment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Tables 2 to 4 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

For unitary and local authorities, the ONS produces estimates of total unemployment, following ILO definitions, from a statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas and breakdowns are compiled from the annual local area LFS and the APS following ILO definitions.

Table 5, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were unemployed, for the 12 months ending March 2007, from the APS. The table also shows unemployment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Tables 6 to 8 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

Table 9, attached shows employment levels, unemployment levels and rates for lone parents aged 16 and over and employment rates for lone parents of working age, resident in the South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain, for the three months ending in June, for 2007 from the LFS household datasets. Data for the Jarrow constituency are unavailable as Parliamentary Constituency markers are not held in this dataset.

The estimates in Tables 1-9 are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes for the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside metropolitan borough are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

Smuggling: Birds

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many incidents of wild bird smuggling have been recorded by HM Revenue and Customs since 1 July 2007. [156833]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) enforcement powers in relation to wild birds apply to those species listed as endangered under Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection species of wild fauna and flora.

HMRC records show no detentions or seizures of wild birds since 1 July 2007.

TRANSPORT

Buoyancy Aids: Fishing Vessels

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has undertaken on the potential to save lives of the introduction of compulsory personal flotation devices to the UK fishing fleet; and if she will make a statement. [156816]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) commissioned research entitled "Practical Application of Regulatory Impact Diagrams to Buoyancy Equipment at Work for Fishermen" which was completed in February 2001. This addressed all factors which may affect the wearing of buoyancy devices at sea.

All fishing vessels are required to carry lifejackets but the report argued that prior to taking a regulatory approach to wearing lifejackets, we needed to identify the needs and experiences of lifejacket users, in order to gauge the requirements for regulations. This finding was supported by research which demonstrated that safety precautions show little correlation with the likelihood of accidents.

Following publication of this report the MCA has participated in research by the Seafish Industry Authority (Seafish) and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute on Lifejacket and Buoyancy Aid Acceptability Trials. The trials of 24 products were in two stages, a test tank assessment to ensure that products are effective when worn with 'sea gear' and long term assessments by fishermen in the course of fishing.

The results of the research have been made available to the industry to inform the purchase and wearing of such equipment and manufacturers of buoyancy aids and lifejackets to inform development.

The MCA has also recently undertaken research on the approach taken to the wearing of lifejackets adopted by other countries, and the effect on casualty statistics, and is currently assessing the findings of this research.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155887]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's projected spending for advertising campaigns for the 2007-08 fiscal year is set out in the following table. Please note, these are anticipated spend and could be subject to change. Additional advertising costs, such as cinema, ambient and online, have been incorporated into 'other' advertising costs.

The main expenditure by the Central Department is in support of the THINK! Road Safety, Act On CO2 and Aviation campaigns. DVLA investment is in support of their vehicle excise duty enforcement, electronic vehicle licensing and sales of marks campaigns.

2007-08

£000

	Television	*Radio*	*Print*	*Other*
Central DfT	6,099	2,350	1,800	3,711
DSA	40	0	50	0
DVLA	3,617	1,567	457	0
HA	0	60	120	20
VOSA	0	0	0	0
MCA	15	0	1.7	0
VCA	0	0	46	0

The Department's projected spending for advertising campaigns for the 2008-09 fiscal year is more difficult to project because some budgets have yet to be allocated. We anticipate that circa £11 million will be spent by Department for Transport and £4.6 million by Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). Investment in each specific media channel has yet to be finalised.

Breaking down the costs of promotional campaigns for the Department by television, radio and print media for 2007-08 and 2008-09 fiscal years could be done at only disproportionate cost.

Lorries: Licensing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* public service vehicles which should be covered by an operators licence but are not. [156055]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is responsible for the enforcement of road traffic legislation. Records are kept of the number of operator licences issued. An operator licence may list a number of vehicles. The Department's records do not detail the number of vehicles as a percentage of the total heavy goods vehicles and public service vehicles fleets in use.

Although DVLA may have records of HGVs and PSVs registered, some will not require an operator licence. One operator licence holder can have multiple vehicles listed. In addition, it is not mandatory for PSV operators to list all the vehicles that they may use on their operator licence. So the DVLA and VOSA records cannot be directly compared.

Lorries: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent estimate is of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* public service vehicles which should have an annual safety check conducted by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency but do not. [156056]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for the enforcement of road safety legislation. Its records reflect the number of heavy goods vehicles (HGV) and public service vehicles (PSV) which have presented for annual test. Its records do not record this as a percentage of the total HGV and PSV fleets in use.

Although the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) may have records of HGVs and PSV's registered, some may be exempt from annual tests or have been declared as off the road (and therefore not require a certificate.) Also VOSA may have tested some vehicles more than once in a year so the DVLA and VOSA records cannot be directly compared.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Allowances

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend eligibility to carer's allowance to allow a carer to receive carer's allowance in respect of more than one individual in the same household. [153756]

Mrs. McGuire: Carer's allowance is intended principally to provide a measure of financial support for carers who cannot work full-time because they provide at least 35 hours of care a week for a severely disabled person. It is not payable in respect of each disabled person a carer may look after and we have no plans to change these arrangements.

Children: Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases have been outstanding for more than *(a)* one year and *(b)* five years. [154671]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 10 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases have been outstanding for more than (a) one year and (b) five years.

The Agency begins to process new applications as soon as they are received and continues until they have been cleared. Any applications that have not yet been cleared have been regarded as outstanding in the answer to this question. The amount of work required to achieve clearance and the elapsed time it involves varies considerably depending on, amongst other things, the circumstances of the parents and how readily they cooperate with the Agency. As such, the Agency holds only a negligible number of completely unprocessed applications.

At June 2007 the Agency had 39,600 old scheme and 74,400 new scheme uncleared cases over one year old, this represents 8% of total caseload. Of those 33,300 old scheme and 1,500 new scheme uncleared cases were over five years old, this represents 3% of total caseload.

A potential new application is defined as cleared when it:

has had a calculation and a payment arrangement set up (new scheme only) or has had an assessment (old scheme only);

has been closed;

has been identified as having had a good cause decision accepted;

has been identified as being subject to a reduced benefit decision;

has been identified as a change of circumstances to an existing case, as opposed to a new application (new scheme only).

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departments: IT

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many IT contracts were put out to competitive tender by his Department in each year since 1997; how many bidders there were for each tender; and which company won the tender in each case. [155377]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was created in June 2001, prior to that, contractual arrangements were the responsibility of different departments and agencies. Information is provided for contracts awarded since the formation of the Department in 2001.

Wherever possible, the Department makes use of existing framework agreements to procure the full range of IS/IT services. This enables more efficient and faster procurement of services against agreed terms. When this is not possible an advertisement is placed in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Two contracts have been awarded as a result of competitive tender through the Official Journal of the European Union. These are the:

Contract to operate the Resource Management system. Three bids were received and the contract was awarded to Fujitsu in 2004.

Framework to enable the Department to procure the full range of IS/IT services via competitions or single tender. This is referred to as the Unity (UNderpinning IT DeliverY) framework and was awarded in 2005. Thirty four bids were received and thirty two suppliers were included onto the Framework Agreement.

Other contracts awarded since 2001 using either the Unity framework, or the Office of Government Commerce's S-Cat agreement, are:

Contract awarded to	
Accenture	Employment Support Allowance
Accenture	Customer Information System
Accenture	Pensions Transformation Project
Atos	Stand Alone Support Applications
Atos	Debt Management
Atos	Working Age Transformation and Change, Benefit Processing Replacement Programme
Atos	Bank Liaison Automation System
Energis	Government Secure Intranet (GSI)
IBM	Working Age Transformation and Change, Benefit Processing Replacement Programme
IBM	Customer Management System
Oracle	Resource Management
Logica	Pensions Regulator
Siemens	Central Payments System
Xansa	Work Train Project

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* estimated and *(b)* outturn (i) cost and (ii) duration was of each IT contract tendered by his Department since 1997. [155378]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was created in June 2001, prior to that, contractual arrangements were the responsibility of different departments and agencies. Information is provided for contracts awarded since the formation of the Department in 2001.

Outturn figures are not available until the contract has ended, so the most recently estimated contract outturn or cost to date has been provided in the following table.

Contract	*Contract estimate (£ million)*	*Most recently estimated contract outturn (£ million)*	*Duration (to)*
Accenture			
Employment Support Allowance Stage 1	9.23	9.23	Oct 2008
Customer Information System	47.38	47.38	2008
Pensions Transformation Project	181.3	165.1	2010-11
ATOS Origin			
Stand Alone Small Applications	2.66	2.66	2009
Debt Management	22.4	14.8 (cost to date)	2008
Working Age Transformation and Change. Benefit Processing Replacement Programme	0.495	0.495	June 2006
Bank Liaison Automation System Technology	0.66	0.66	February 2009
Energis			
Government Secure Intranet (GSI) Anti Virus Protection	1.722	1.722	2005
Fujitsu			
Resource Management (Operate)	44.83	44.83	2009
IBM			
Working Age Transformation and Change. Benefit Processing Replacement Programme	123.4	49.8	2007
Customer Management System	103	103	2006
Oracle			
Resource Management Application Development and Support	32.2	32.2	2007
Logica			
Pensions Regulator	0.649	0.649	2005
Siemens			
Central Payments System	59.6	59.6	December 2010
Xansa			
Work Train Project	9.5	9.5	November 2008

Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of telephone calls to his Department from members of the public are recorded for training purposes. [154643]

Mrs. McGuire: All calls to the Department's contact centres are recorded and may be used for training purposes except:

when technical issues arise;

textphone calls;

eight Jobcentre Plus sites do not have the technical ability to record calls; and

National Benefit Fraud Hotline calls due to their sensitive nature.

Calls made directly to the operational teams and local services are not recorded.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2281-2W, on disability living allowance, whether a decision by a customer to begin work amounts to change in circumstances; and to what extent such a decision affects eligibility for disability living allowance or the amount awarded. [155653]

Mrs. McGuire: Customers in receipt of Disability Living Allowance who begin work do not have to report that event as a change of circumstances unless their care and/or mobility needs have changed in the period leading up to them beginning work or as a result of beginning work.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to assess the likely effect of proposed legislation on people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [153751]

Mrs. McGuire: To meet the requirements of the Disability Equality Duty, Government Departments must assess the likely impact of proposed legislation on disability equality. The disability equality duty, which was introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, came into force on 4 December 2006. It requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate disability discrimination and promote disability equality when carrying out their functions.

The general duty applies across the full range of public sector activity, including service delivery, policy making, procurement and performance management. Additional duties are imposed by regulations on certain public authorities, including all Government Departments, to produce and implement a disability equality scheme in which the authority must set out its methods for assessing the impact on equality for disabled people of its proposed policies and practices.

While the Disability Equality Duty provides the framework for assessing the impact of policies on disabled people the precise mechanism for carrying out the assessments is up to each Government Department to determine and set out in their scheme.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people are resident in the UK; what mechanisms are used to estimate that figure; and if he will make a statement. [153752]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that there are over 10 million disabled people in Britain.

This estimate covers the number of people with a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities. It is based on data taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS).

Everyone in this group would meet the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA); however, these estimates do not reflect the total number of people covered by the DDA as the FRS does not collect this information.

The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining response bias.

The Government's vision is that by 2025 all disabled people should have the same opportunities and choices as everyone else, be respected as equal members of society and be able to participate as equals in every aspect of family and community life.

National Insurance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many National Insurance numbers were issued to non-UK citizens living in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997, broken down by nationality. [154072]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2002-03. The available information has been placed in the Library.

UK Commission for Employment and Skills: Public Appointments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how appointments will be made to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills; and what matters in respect of environmental sustainability will be taken into account in the work of the Commission. [152218]

Caroline Flint: Appointments will be made to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills through fair and open competition and under the guidelines issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Skills development is a fundamental part of the drive for environmental sustainability and the UK Commission will be aiming to increase skill levels in all sectors and in all disciplines as it moves to meet the aspirations set out in the Leitch report.

Employment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many *(a)* women and *(b)* single parents were unemployed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [156032]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. The relevant tables have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about employment and unemployment. (156032, 156033, 156034, 156035)

These questions ask for the same information as questions received in July this year, and I refer you to the answer given in *Official Report* volume 463 of 26 July, column 1460.

However, since the previous questions were answered, we now have new employment and unemployment data from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for April 2006 to March 2007, and the April to June 2007 Labour Force Survey (LFS) household dataset.

As in the previous answer, Table 1, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were in employment, for the 12 months ending in March 2007 from the APS. The table also shows employment rates which allow changes to be seen in the

context of changing population numbers. Tables 2 to 4 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

For unitary and local authorities, the ONS produces estimates of total unemployment, following ILO definitions, from a statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas and breakdowns are compiled from the annual local area LFS and the APS following ILO definitions.

Table 5, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were unemployed, for the 12 months ending March 2007, from the APS. The table also shows unemployment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Tables 6 to 8 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

Table 9, attached shows employment levels, unemployment levels and rates for lone parents aged 16 and over and employment rates for lone parents of working age, resident in the South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain, for the three months ending in June, for 2007 from the LFS household datasets. Data for the Jarrow constituency are unavailable as Parliamentary Constituency markers are not held in this dataset.

The estimates in Tables 1-9 are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes for the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside metropolitan borough are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

JUSTICE

Arrests: Foreigners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals arrested in the Northern Basic Command Unit of Cambridgeshire Constabulary area were non-UK citizens of the European Union in each quarter since May 2004. [156825]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection undertaken by my Department only provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity and main offence group. Aggregated data, collected centrally from the 43 police force areas in England and Wales, are available at police force area level only and do not record the nationality of arrestees.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of uninsured drivers in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area in each recording period since May 2004; and if he will make a statement. [156826]

Maria Eagle: Available information for the Cambridgeshire police force area are taken from the Court Proceedings database held by my Department, from May to December 2004 (latest available) shows there were 1,840 proceedings and 1,560 findings of guilt for the offence of 'using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks'.

2005 data will be available later this year.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much fuel was consumed by UK armed forces in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each month since the beginning of operations. [154225]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the monthly consumption rates of fuel as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

I am able to provide the total amount of fuel consumed by UK forces in Afghanistan and Iraq for those dates highlighted and this is shown in the following tables. Data are not held centrally on the dates prior to those stated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan—total fuels consumed since October 2006-June 2007

	Litres
Aviation fuel	71.7 million
Diesel	2.75 million
Petrol	85 thousand

This includes a small portion consumed by multinational elements of Task Force Helmand/ Regional Command (South).

Iraq—total fuels consumed since January 2005-August 2007

	Litres
Aviation Fuel	132.3 million
Diesel	66.7 million
Petrol	12.8 million

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much depleted uranium ammunition has been used by British forces in Operation Herrick since 2002. [156824]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No depleted uranium ammunition has been used by UK forces in Operation Herrick since 2002.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what percentage of time *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ark Royal were (i) on operations and (ii) undergoing maintenance in each year since 1997. [154256]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 129W, on animal experiments, what his timetable is for making the appointments. [156249]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that a team has been appointed to examine the future of animal testing in support of a possible future submarine escape and rescue research programme. The team comprises a core group of six specialists supported by a number of independent external advisers. It is led by an ex-military scientist, qualified to postdoctorate level, supported by subject matter experts in defence related human physiology research, submarine design and operation, and law pertaining to the use of animals in scientific research. The group of external advisers includes leading academics in the field of human physiology.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hyperbaric experiments have been carried out on live goats since March 2007; what plans he has to commission future experiments; and if he will make a statement. [156604]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that no hyperbaric experiments using goats have been conducted since March 2007.

A number of studies reviewing the need for further use of goats in this research programme are currently being undertaken. These studies take into account MOD's duty of care to sustain the health and welfare of submarine crews and to provide them with the ability to operate safely and effectively. The teams are investigating a range of options for submarine escape and rescue, and life support, including and excluding animal experimentation.

Any plans to conduct further experiments using goats are subject to the findings of this review.

Armed Forces: Gliding

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the unit costs of *(a)* tug and *(b)* winch launches when used for glider flights as part of armed forces training courses. [156200]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The estimated unit cost of a tug launch and a winch launch for glider flights as part of training courses is shown as follows:

Type of launch	*Estimated unit cost (£)*
Tug	12.06
Winch	2.60

Armed Forces: Languages

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Farsi/Dari, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* Urdu, *(d)* Pashto, *(e)* Swahili, *(f)* Uyghur, *(g)* Uzbek *(h)* Tajik and *(i)* Kurdish speaking military personnel are serving in the British armed forces. [154261]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of presently serving military personnel known to have skills of at least standardized language profile (SLP) Level 1 in the specified languages are listed in the following table. The numbers are listed in two categories "tested" and "untested". Those included in the "tested" column have confirmed their skill in a military language examination within the last three years and their qualification is current. Those included in the "untested" column were either examined more than three years ago and their qualification has expired, or are known to have some level of skill which has not been confirmed by military language examination.

Language	*Tested*	*Untested*
Farsi	72	79
Dari	12	1
Arabic	304	1,393
Urdu	14	41
Pashto	90	5
Swahili	0	13

There are no records of any personnel having skills in Uyghur, Uzbek, Tajik or Kurdish.

The table does not include records for special forces personnel.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military personnel have received training in *(a)* Farsi/Dari, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* Urdu, *(d)* Pashto, *(e)* Swahili, *(f)* Uyghur, *(g)* Uzbek *(h)* Tajik and *(i)* Kurdish in each year since 1997. [154262]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables show the number of persons receiving training to at least standardized language profile (SLP) Level 1 in the languages for which information is requested. Despite extensive trawls, it is only possible to provide annual figures for Arabic. For the other languages, an aggregate figure for the entire period since 1997 has been collated.

	Arabic
1997	85
1998	99
1999	50
2000	37
2001	116
2002	73
2003	116
2004	127
2005	101
2006	122
2007	[1]233

[1] To date

	Other languages: 1997-2007[1]
Farsi	163
Dari	56
Urdu	41
Pashto	169
Swahili	5
Kurdish	2

[1] To date

No personnel have received any training in Uyghur, Uzbek or Tajik since 1997.

Over the 10 year period, training organisations and military language examination systems have evolved considerably. This may have led to loss of data for the earlier part of the period, with the result that totals for

each language are potentially understated. The figures quoted include special forces personnel.

Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour intervals are of the *(a)* infantry, *(b)* Royal Regiment of Artillery, *(c)* the Corps of the Royal Engineers, *(d)* the Royal Logistic Corps and *(e)* the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. [154251]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average unit tour interval for the infantry and the Royal Regiment of Artillery is 23.5 and 20.8 months, respectively. This is calculated on the basis of the mean time between the start of the most recent deployment and the end of the previous deployment for all formed units within each arm.

The unit tour interval is a less relevant measure when applied to the Corps of Royal Engineers, the Royal Logistic Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This is due to the frequency with which personnel move between formed units within these corps (which means that the personnel deployed with a unit will be substantially different from the personnel who deployed with the same unit on a previous occasion). Unit tour interval data for these corps is not therefore routinely collated.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion UK defence spending was of UK GDP in each financial year since 1997. [156187]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is published in HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis. The most recent version, CM7019 from April 2007 is available in the Library of the House and at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Defence: Inflation

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the defence inflation planning assumptions are for financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11. [156236]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In line with all Government Departments, the GDP deflator is used to estimate inflation. It is available on HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

As the GDP deflator is frequently updated, to simplify our internal planning process, inflation is currently rounded to 2.5 per cent.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms columns 1-8 of the subhead detail tables for his Department contained in the (i) main estimate, (ii) winter supplementary estimate and (iii) spring supplementary estimate for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08. [156002]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the right hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* planned (i) non-cash limit and (ii) near-cash resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL), *(b)* anticipated operating appropriations in aid, *(c)* planned capital DEL and *(d)* anticipated non-operating appropriations in aid are for each of his Department's top-level budget holders in each year of the comprehensive spending review; [156326]

(2) what the planned *(a)* non-cash and *(b)* near cash administration costs limit is for each of his Department's top-level budget holders in each year of the comprehensive spending review. [156329]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department is currently conducting a planning round to disaggregate the comprehensive spending review settlement; therefore this information is not currently available.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the near cash resource and capital departmental expenditure limits are for his Department in each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. [156327]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the Ministry of Defence's near-cash RDEL and CDEL over the CSR07 years.

£ million

	Near-cash resource DEL	*Capital DEL*
2008-09	22,869	7,871
2009-10	23,711	8,187
2010-11	24,434	8,871

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the financial year 2006-07 outturn for resources one, two and three provision for each subhead was broken down by *(a)* near cash departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* non-cash DEL, *(c)* capital DEL, *(d)* near cash annual managed expenditure, *(e)* non-cash annual managed expenditure, *(f)* capital annual managed expenditure, *(g)* near cash non-budget and *(h)* non-cash non-budget. [156328]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1888-93W.

EU Defence Policy

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to meet his counterparts in *(a)* France and *(b)* other European states regarding the establishment of an autonomous European military capability. [155834]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Secretary of State meets with the French Defence Minister as well as his other European Defence ministerial colleagues on a regular basis to discuss the European Security and Defence

Policy (ESDP). This includes at meetings of EU Defence Ministers such as that held by the EU presidency last week in Portugal where, collectively, Ministers met to take forward work on ESDP.

European Defence Agency: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the UK has contributed to the European Defence Agency in each year since 2004. [154240]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since the establishment of the European Defence Agency in July 2004, the UK has contributed:

	£
2004	1,056,536.14
2005	2,362,015.50
2006	2,093,545.88
2007	1,954,567.49

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects UK forces to leave Iraq completely. [156084]

Des Browne: As the Prime Minister announced on 8 October, the number of British forces based in southern Iraq will reduce to around 4,500 by the end of the year. Our forces continue to have important work to do helping the Iraqi security forces further develop the capacity and capability to take over responsibility for the security of their own people. We keep force levels under constant review and will continue to make reductions as and when conditions on the ground allow. It is therefore wrong to set an arbitrary date for British forces to leave Iraq.

Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urban warfare exercises have been conducted in each year since 2001. [154232]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested as all three services conduct urban warfare exercises at varying scales.

Land units are mandated to conduct urban training throughout the training cycle. However, urban training does not take place in isolation but is integrated into wider exercises. Training may involve low level activity focusing solely upon the urban environment or as part of wider collective training. The intensity of this urban training differs according to time and exercise area. By way of example, for the period September 2006 to September 2007[1], the Copehill Down Urban Training Village on Salisbury Plain was used for 296 days of urban training.

Both the RN and RAF also conduct urban warfare exercises but at a much smaller scale. Since 2001 the annual programme for Commando Training Centre Royal Marines has routinely included urban warfare exercises, specifically 22 for Recruit Training, five for the All Arms Commando Course and two for Young Officer Courses, making a total of 29 annually. For the RAF, 14 urban warfare exercises were conducted in each year in the period 2001-03, rising to 18 annually thereafter.

The individual training programme also includes urban training, though to varying degrees dependent upon the assessed need. By way of example, training at both the Infantry Battle School and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst routinely incorporates urban exercises as part of their courses.

Urban training is extensively practised within Pre Deployment Training for current operations, and incorporated into all unit training packages for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The exact emphasis upon urban operations is driven by the role of the unit concerned.

[1] Records for the amount of urban training across the entire Defence Estate are not held.

Navy: Bermuda

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy craft of what classes have been deployed in Bermuda's territorial waters to promote law enforcement and national security in the last two years; what the estimated number is of Royal Navy personnel deployed; and if he will make a statement. [155825]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the past two years four naval units have visited Bermuda: two ships were on Atlantic Patrol Task (North) and two were on routine transit visits. Although none of the ships went there with the specific purpose of promoting law enforcement, they bolstered national security by virtue of their presence.

The Royal Navy does not track vessels in and out of territorial waters. Details of actual port visits to Bermuda are as follows:

Ship	*Company*	*Visited*
HMS Cumberland	250	29 November to 2 December 2005
HMS Torbay	130	25 March to 30 March 2006
HMS Iron Duke	181	29 June to 3 July 2006
HMS Scott	62	21 May to 26 May 2007

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial contribution has been made by the Government of Bermuda towards the cost of the Royal Navy's deployment in Bermuda's territorial waters on the task of promoting law enforcement and national security in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [156335]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None. The Government of Bermuda does not pay for Royal Navy deployments in Bermuda's territorial waters. The security of UK Overseas Territories is the responsibility of the UK Government.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to provide the *(a)* Nimrod

and *(b)* Nimrod MRA4 with (i) armour and (ii) fuel tank protection before deployment in theatre; and if he will make a statement. [156605]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our aircraft are fitted with defensive systems and survivability aids to reflect the operational environment in which they are deployed. We keep the requirement for such systems under review for all our aircraft deployed on operations including the Nimrod MR2. This will continue to be the case for future aircraft, such as Nimrod MRA4. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

RAF Halton

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many powered take-offs took place at RAF Halton in each calendar year since 2003; how many were carried out by each unit in each year; and if he will make a statement. [155902]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The annual number of powered take-offs from RAF Halton is capped at 16,300 per year as a result of a decision made by the then Under-Secretary of State for Defence in 2004. This figure has never been exceeded.

The total number of powered take-offs from RAF Halton in 2003 was 14,143 and in 2004 was 13,293. A full breakdown by unit is not available for those years. The powered take-offs from RAF Halton for 2005 and 2006 broken down by unit are shown as follows:

Units	*2005*	*2006*
613 Volunteer Gliding Squadron (613 VGS)	5,378	4,291
Joint Services Gliding Centre (JSGC)	3,094	2,377
RAF Gliding and Soaring Association (RAF GSA)	430	575
Halton Aeroplane Club (HAC)	4,287	4,159
Halton Microlight Club (HMC)	2,408	2,180
Other	312	118
Annual total	15,909	13,700

St. Malo Agreement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress with achieving the objectives of the St. Malo Agreement. [155831]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 1998 St. Malo text from the summit between the UK and French Governments declares the intentions of the two countries to enable the European Union to play a full role on the international stage. It concentrates particularly on what is now known as European Security and Defence Policy, while recognising the need for ESDP to develop in a way which is both supportive of and supported by NATO's crisis management activities.

Since 1998 ESDP has developed considerably. It has enabled the EU to launch four peacekeeping operations: in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2003 and 2006); Macedonia (2003); and Bosnia (launched in December 2004), as well as numerous smaller civil-military operations. The current Bosnia operation took over from NATO's SFOR and has proven the efficacy of the Berlin Plus arrangements agreed in 2003 for EU access to NATO assets.

Other successes include the establishment of the European Defence Agency in 2004 to drive forward capability development and improve defence/industrial co-operation; the continuing development of a capacity for military and joint civil/military planning, based on agreed consultation arrangements with NATO; and the establishment of full operating capability for the rapid-response Battle Groups initiative, achieved in January 2007.

The Government are therefore fully satisfied with progress to date, and we will continue to play a leading role in further progress.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of legislation to deter violent action against research facilities that use animals in their testing; [154373]

(2) if she will review the effectiveness of the law on the use of blackmail in the context of the activities of protesters against research facilities that use animals in their testing; [154378]

(3) how many convictions there have been for criminal acts for which responsibility was claimed by the Animal Liberation Front; [154381]

(4) what discussions she has had with zoos and aquariums on security protection from animal rights extremists. [154380]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to eradicating the threat of animal rights extremism and has in place a robust interdepartmental strategy to achieve this. The strategy is centred on an improved law enforcement approach, with additional resources provided to the police to tackle animal rights extremism, a central police team set-up to drive forward police action nationally, and legislation enacted to protect animal research organisations. The strategy has been overseen by a Cabinet Committee which has been encouraged by the significant fall in illegal extremist activity, and the many significant convictions of animal rights extremists in the past 18 months, some for blackmail. A number of other animal rights extremists are awaiting trial and other major investigations remain ongoing.

While the Government respect, support and will protect the right to peaceful protest, we are equally clear that it is wholly unacceptable that a very small number of animal extremists should mount campaigns of fear and intimidation in an attempt to stop individuals and companies going about their lawful and legitimate business whether it is connected with animal research, farming or zoos and aquariums. The Government will continue to drive and review the strategy to eradicate the extremist threat.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to shut down the websites of the *(a)* Animal Liberation Front and *(b)* Animal Liberation Front Suppliers Group under the Terrorism Act 2006. [154374]

Mr. Coaker: The investigation and prosecution of offences under the Terrorism Act 2006 (including offences involving websites) are matters for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service respectively.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of anti-social behaviour were *(a)* recorded and *(b)* detected in each London borough in 2006-07. [153899]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Home Office does not collect this information centrally.

Border Police

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated cost of providing a unified border force is in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* each of the next five years. [156509]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* In his announcement of 25 July, the Prime Minister commissioned the Cabinet Secretary to report to him on the stages ahead in implementation of a unified border force and whether there is a case for going further while ensuring value for money. The Cabinet Secretary is due to report in October.

Breathalysers

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules apply to mobile police units on *(a)* carrying breathalyser kits and *(b)* the procedure to be followed in deciding to take citizens to the police station for breathalysing when kits are not carried; and if she will make a statement. [156639]

Mr. Coaker: Breath test devices currently available for use outside police stations are screening devices, used for a preliminary test to obtain an indication whether a person's alcohol level is likely to be above the prescribed limit. If a person tests positive, he can be arrested, taken to a police station and required to take an evidential test.

There is no statutory requirement on mobile police units to carry breath screening devices. Vehicles engaged in traffic law enforcement or responding to traffic incidents are however very likely to, and other vehicles may do. This is an operational equipment matter for the chief officer. If the vehicle does not have a screening device, one will normally be readily available and the person to be tested can be required to remain a reasonable length of time for it to arrive. Failure to co-operate with a preliminary test when the officer reasonably suspects there is alcohol in the person's body is an offence for which the person can be arrested.

In addition to the offence of driving while over the prescribed limit, there is a separate offence of driving whilst under the influence of drink. An officer can arrest for this offence and subsequently require an evidential test provided he has reasonable grounds for suspecting the offence and an arrest is necessary for its prompt and effective investigation.

Decisions as to arrest, etc are operational matters for the police on each occasion.

CCTV: Costs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* installing and *(b)* maintaining CCTV surveillance in London in each of the last five years, broken down by borough. [154815]

Mr. Coaker: No data on the costs of publicly-funded CCTV cameras operating on a local or on a national level are centrally held by the Home Office.

Previously, closed circuit television (CCTV) has been provided using a range of national and local funding streams. The principal fund has been the crime reduction programme from 1999 to 2003 which invested £170 million in CCTV schemes.

Currently, crime reduction funding is allocated directly to local authorities through the Safer Stronger Communities Fund. These funds finance a variety of interventions, including CCTV, to tackle local crime priorities.

Funding allocations are local decisions and are the responsibility of individual partnerships.

CCTV: London Boroughs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many publicly-funded CCTV cameras were installed in each London borough in each of the last five years. [154805]

Mr. Coaker: No data on the number of publicly-funded CCTV cameras operating on a local or on a national level are centrally held by the Home Office.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the *(a)* internet service providers, *(b)* social networking sites and *(c)* other IT companies which have adopted the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's report abuse mechanism. [155952]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

However, the Home Secretary's Task Force for Child Protection on the internet has set up a working group which includes representatives from social network providers, law enforcement and children's charities. This group is looking at the safety issues for children caused by the development and growth of social networking sites and is developing good practice guidelines.

Deportation: Enforcement

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long she expects to take to

consider the case of Mr. S.O. (Ref: O142114) who has applied for leave to remain under the 14-year concession but has been referred for enforcement action. [155778]

Mr. Byrne: Gill Mortlock, north west regional director for Border and Immigration Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 21 September 2007.

Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government have to commission research into the effect of changing the classification of illegal drugs on *(a)* levels of drugs misuse and *(b)* levels of drug-related harm. [154339]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have no plans at this time to commission any research into the effect of changing the classification of illegal drugs on levels of drug misuse and/or levels of drug-related harm. The Government undertake several surveys to monitor levels of drug misuse and drug-related harm but these are predicated on the ABC classification system.

Drugs: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of the Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership funding was allocated to Peterborough constituency in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [154763]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Department of Health, Home Office, Department for Children, Schools and Families (formerly the Department for Education and Skills), and the Youth Justice Board brought together substance misuse budgets for young people into one grant, the Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG) at a national level in 2004-05. This funding is made available in addition to mainstream funding streams.

The allocations made to Peterborough since 2004-05 are shown in the following table.

The change in levels of funding in 2007-08 against 2006-07 need to be placed in the context of record levels of investment over the last eight years. This year's allocation to Peterborough is over 30 per cent. greater than when YPSMPG allocations were introduced. Where there is a local need, the pooled treatment budget for drug treatment services can be used to provide additional funding for young people's treatment.

	Allocation (£)
2004-05	216,408
2005-06	303,323
2006-07	308,951
2007-08	284,440

Genetics: Databases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether DNA and fingerprints may be taken from individuals who are being asked to take a breathalyser test; [156525]

(2) whether individuals not subject to charges but who were subject to a breathalyser test are entitled to *(a)* decline when asked to submit to fingerprinting and the taking of DNA and *(b)* request that the DNA and fingerprints should be destroyed; [156641]

(3) what rules apply to the taking of fingerprints and DNA samples when individuals are asked to take a breathalyser test *(a)* at a police station and *(b)* in their vehicle; what differences there are between the rules in both cases; and if she will make a statement. [156653]

Mr. Coaker: The Road Traffic Act 1988 gives a constable power to require a driver to provide a breath specimen for a preliminary breath test. This is generally taken at the roadside. Under section 6D of the 1988 Act, the driver may be arrested if as a result of the test, the constable suspects that that his/her breath or blood alcohol level exceeds the prescribed limit or if for any reason the driver does not cooperate with the test and the constable suspects alcohol (or drugs) to be in the driver's body.

The purpose of this arrest is to enable a constable to require the driver to provide an evidential sample which, depending on the circumstances, may be breath, blood or urine, to be analysed to determine whether the driver may have committed a specific drink/driving offence under the Road Traffic Act.

The taking and retention of fingerprints and DNA for the purposes of investigating other offences and for identifying suspects are governed by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). Under PACE, fingerprints and DNA cannot be taken without consent unless the driver has been arrested for, or charged with, a specific recordable offence, for example, driving with excess alcohol or when unfit to drive through drink or drugs, failing without reasonable excuse to take a preliminary breath test or failing without reasonable excuse to provide an evidential specimen for analysis. Biometric data under PACE is taken at a police station.

Police may retain fingerprints and samples lawfully taken under PACE. It is a matter for the chief officer for each force area to determine whether or not samples or fingerprints should be retained.

Police Stations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations were operational in each police force area in 2006. [156310]

Jacqui Smith: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Firearms

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* accidental and *(b)* negligent discharges of firearms by police officers were reported to police forces in England and Wales in 2007. [155978]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally by the Home Office. However, police forces in England and Wales are encouraged to report any instances of accidental or negligent discharges of firearms by police officers to the Association of Chief Police Officers. The Association of Chief Police Officers aims to share lessons learned from these incidents with all forces to prevent them occurring again, and will consider changes to policy where appropriate at a national level.

Police: Fraud

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure the accountability of the City of London police force for its handling of business fraud cases; how many cases it successfully brought to prosecution in each of the last five years; and how many current cases it is dealing with. [154347]

Mr. Coaker: The Police Authority for the City of London Police is the Corporation of London's Court of Common Council. However, decisions on individual cases are operational matters and solely the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police for the City of London.

Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty for Fraud and Forgery offences in the City of London police force area from 2001 to 2005 is shown in the table. The Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is unable to separate business fraud cases from other types of fraud and forgery.

I understand from the City of London Police that their Economic Crime Department, which has lead force status for the south east and which investigates all types of economic crime, has an average active caseload of around 300 investigations.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for Fraud and Forgery offences, in the City of London police force area, 2001 to 2005[1,2]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2001	184	90
2002	210	89
2003	324	104
2004	244	131
2005	198	107

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice

Police: Scotland

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions are being conducted with the Scottish Executive on the impact on, and changes necessary to, its police forces and law enforcement arrangements consequent on the Government's proposal to create a new police or border force working in the United Kingdom's ports of entry; and if she will make a statement. [155807]

Mr. Byrne: The Scottish Executive has discussed with the Cabinet Secretary's border review team potential implications for Scotland of the introduction of a unified border force, including potential implications for police and law enforcement arrangements.

Prisoners: Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research the Government have *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed into the cost-effectiveness of imprisoning dependent drug users for non-violent offences. [154332]

Mr. Coaker: There has been no Home Office or Ministry of Justice research commissioned specifically to look directly at the cost-effectiveness of imprisoning dependent drug users for non-violent offences. However, there is currently an extensive programme of research planned for the forthcoming year that will evaluate the impact of specific CJS/NOMS interventions on re-offending and what value for money they offer. The output from this research will help shape priorities across the CJS in terms of where resources are likely to be most effectively targeted for protecting the public and reducing re-offending.

In addition, findings from a new study of drug treatment in the community (DTORS) will be published later in 2007. This study includes dependent users in treatment who have been referred via both CJS and non-CJS routes. Information on drug treatment in the community can provide valuable lessons to be learnt for treating dependent drug users in prison and the cost effectiveness of such treatment.

Finally, I refer the hon. Member to 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2315W, in which the former Home Office Minister—my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe)—outlined the programme of research in place to evaluate CJS/NOMS interventions on re-offending; and 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1319W, in which the Home Secretary outlined some of the many measures in place to address drug-related crime.

Robbery: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* robberies and *(b)* burglaries were reported in each London constituency in each of the last five years; and how many of these resulted in convictions. [154817]

Mr. Coaker: Data at specific constituency level are not available. The numbers of robbery and burglary offences recorded by the police, from 2002-03 to 2006-07, for each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in London are given in the following tables.

The following tables show the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for burglary and robbery in Greater London for the years 2001 to 2005, and is taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Data for 2006 will be available in November this year.

Caution must be taken in comparing recorded crime statistics with convictions statistics as these are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data is provided on a financial year basis and counts offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Robbery offences recorded in each London Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

CDRP	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
City of London	45	50	42	39	41
Barking and Dagenham	686	802	739	775	805
Barnet	1,059	1,082	1,211	1,226	1,063
Bexley	339	388	402	473	448
Brent	1,795	1,807	2,084	2,355	2,144
Bromley	702	863	729	901	1,115
Camden	1,765	1,334	1,315	1,260	1,597
City of Westminster	1,752	1,437	1,505	1,577	1,756
Croydon	1,888	1,771	1,496	1,845	1,829
Ealing	1,823	1,473	1,565	2,012	2,359
Enfield	1,072	1,211	1,143	1,454	1,507
Greenwich	693	1,083	1,172	1,229	1,479
Hackney	2,466	2,441	1,926	1,856	1,685
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,271	1,146	1,386	1,285	1,172
Haringey	2,166	1,903	1,430	2,024	1,946
Harrow	613	624	699	862	769
Havering	479	512	442	459	549
Hillingdon	588	512	593	876	974
Hounslow	954	820	712	841	869
Islington	1,664	1,397	1,244	1,412	1,488
Kensington and Chelsea	673	794	792	906	787
Kingston upon Thames	305	292	257	337	302
Lambeth	4,017	3,298	3,021	2,998	2,911
Lewisham	1,627	1,924	1,783	2,304	2,635
Merton	684	584	459	625	598
Newham	2,150	2,242	1,939	2,501	2,520
Redbridge	1,096	1,188	1,241	1,329	1,353
Richmond upon Thames	291	257	376	455	408
Southwark	2,220	2,295	2,406	2,981	2,695
Sutton	276	354	231	411	413
Tower Hamlets	1,790	1,568	1,457	1,675	1,908
Waltham Forest	1,791	1,655	1,796	2,392	1,954
Wandsworth	1,788	1,574	1,475	1,668	1,724
Total London Area	42,528	40,681	39,068	45,343	45,803

Table 2: Burglary offences recorded in each London Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

CDRP	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
City of London	444	454	501	366	402
Barking and Dagenham	2,012	2,240	2,175	1,921	2,117
Barnet	4,039	3,978	4,045	4,363	3,904
Bexley	2,341	2,226	1,986	2,366	2,076
Brent	3,859	4,062	3,987	3,904	3,330
Bromley	3,596	3,472	3,776	3,926	3,588
Camden	5,884	4,843	4,171	4,108	4,322
City of Westminster	5,264	4,296	4,497	4,158	3,801
Croydon	4,115	3,769	3,230	3,582	3,464
Ealing	4,543	4,375	4,350	4,999	3,957
Enfield	4,301	3,865	3,528	3,844	3,638
Greenwich	2,986	3,080	2,970	3,209	3,241
Hackney	4,807	4,327	3,897	3,547	2,687
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,089	2,827	3,023	3,052	2,732
Haringey	4,356	4,115	4,084	3,841	3,559
Harrow	2,736	2,626	2,178	2,446	1,959
Havering	2,386	2,161	2,315	2,453	2,511
Hillingdon	3,569	3,183	3,143	3,137	3,182
Hounslow	3,374	3,450	2,969	2,982	2,594
Islington	4,429	3,957	3,681	3,683	3,728
Kensington and Chelsea	2,512	2,576	2,580	2,444	2,182
Kingston upon Thames	985	939	984	1,188	1,038
Lambeth	5,694	4,980	4,150	3,884	3,685
Lewisham	3,708	3,837	3,778	3,524	3,579
Merton	1,930	2,034	1,764	1,796	1,828
Newham	3,494	3,398	3,410	4,112	3,371
Redbridge	2,974	2,990	3,058	3,282	3,053
Richmond upon Thames	2,120	1,787	2,017	2,395	2,085
Southwark	4,885	4,556	4,411	4,143	4,087
Sutton	1,446	1,397	1,429	1,480	1,451
Tower Hamlets	3,567	3,023	3,070	3,467	2,890
Waltham Forest	3,812	3,284	3,144	3,131	3,116
Wandsworth	4,547	3,664	3,616	3,108	3,943
Total London Area	113,804	105,771	101,917	103,841	97,100

Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for Burglary and Robbery, Greater London, 2001-05[1,2]

Police force area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Burglary					
City of London	35	25	25	20	29
Metropolitan Police	2,977	3,339	3,207	3,075	3,031
Greater London	3,012	3,364	3,232	3,095	3,060
Robbery					
City of London	9	1	3	8	2
Metropolitan Police	1,767	1,936	1,835	2,024	1,953
Greater London	1,776	1,937	1,838	2,032	1,955

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Security Industry Authority: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many enforcement offices of the Security Industry Authority are operational in the force area of North Wales Police. [155962]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) does not have regional offices. The SIA has an intelligence team and a network of 41 investigators across England, Wales and Scotland. SIA investigation teams cover specific areas throughout England, Wales and Scotland and the structure of the SIA investigation teams allows resources to be directed to that area as required.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many convictions under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 for working in a licensable role without a Security Industry Agency licence were obtained against individuals resident in the force area of North Wales police in each of the last three years; [155963]

(2) how many convictions under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 for supplying unlicensed security staff were obtained against individuals resident in the force area of North Wales police in each of the last three years. [155964]

Mr. Coaker: In 2004 and 2005, there were no convictions under sections 3 and 5 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 at any courts in the North Wales police force area either for working in a licensable role without a Security Industry Agency licence or for supplying unlicensed security staff.

The data for 2006 will be available in November 2007. (The statistics collected are broken down into locations where convictions were secured and not the addresses of individuals resident in the force area.)

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* front line and *(b)* non-front line licences granted under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 are held by individuals resident in the force area of North Wales Police. [155965]

Mr. Coaker: As of 1 October 2007, 236,129 front line licences and 5,677 non-front line licences have been granted in total across England, Wales and Scotland.

The statistics collected by the SIA are broken down into licensable sectors, not geographical areas.

Tesco: Extortion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from Tesco supermarket on threatening letters received from animal rights activists; and if she will make a statement. [154379]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has received no representations from Tesco supermarket on threatening letters received from animal rights activists. However, the Government are committed to working in close co-operation with law enforcement agencies and any targets of animal rights extremism to eradicate the threat of extremists, building on the significant fall in illegal extremist activity, and the many significant convictions of animal rights extremists in the past 18 months.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Centre of Excellence for Charitable Giving

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the winners of the contract to host the Centre of Excellence for Charitable Giving will also be able to bid for research work commissioned by the Centre. [155631]

Phil Hope: The Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy is being commissioned on the basis of a published specification that identified key research areas.

A small proportion of the overall budget is currently uncommitted and has been set aside by the funders to support the commissioning of further research over the course of the centre.

It will be open to centre staff and others to bid for currently uncommitted funds, and to any additional funds secured to support appropriate further research projects.

Appropriate governance arrangements will be made to ensure that decisions on any further research supported by existing uncommitted funds, and by any additional funds secured, will be based on proposals' scientific excellence, in line with ESRC practice.

Charitable Donations

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what target the Government has set to increase charitable donations in real terms over the 10 year period to 2014; and what steps the Government is taking to monitor and report on progress towards meeting this target. [155630]

Phil Hope: A Generous Society, the Government's charitable giving strategy, was published in November 2005, and sets out our plans for working in partnership with the third sector to foster a deeper culture of planned, regular and tax-efficient giving. The Citizenship Survey will be used to determine the impact of the measures adopted.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department bought for the use of new departmental Ministers in the Cabinet Office following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156742]

Gillian Merron: The information is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156614]

Edward Miliband: A list of the non-departmental public bodies and agencies sponsored by the Cabinet Office can be found in the Cabinet Office departmental reports which are available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members. They are also available from the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about_the_cabinet_office/reports.asp

Gift Aid

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps were taken by the Office of the Third Sector to inform the voluntary sector and the general public about the reduction in the rate of gift aid that resulted from the change in income tax rates in the last Budget; and when those steps were taken. [155629]

Phil Hope: The then Chancellor and the Minister for the third sector discussed the need to further build on the increase in the amount of money directly benefiting third sector organisations, which has increased from £135 million in 1996-97 to £750 million for 2005-06. Measures to increase take-up of Gift Aid and ensure greater awareness of how to give in a tax-efficient way have been widely consulted on this year, ahead of any changes coming into effect on income tax levels. Findings from the consultation will be made available in due course.

Information Officers: Charity Commission

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many press officers are employed by the Charity Commission. [154419]

Phil Hope: The Charity Commission employs six staff with press office responsibilities.

Information Officers: Independent Complaints Reviewer to the Charity Commission

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many press officers are employed by the Independent Complaints Reviewer to the Charity Commission. [154461]

Phil Hope: The Independent Complaints Reviewer to the Charity Commission does not employ any press officers.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Political Powers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people are members of quangos in England and Wales; and what the total cost of quangos in England and Wales was in each of the last 10 years; [152930]

(2) what assessments are made of the political party memberships of individuals appointed to quangos and commissions in England and Wales; what reforms are planned; and if he will make a statement; [152931]

(3) which public bodies are required to report to Parliament; [152932]

(4) how many and what percentage of the *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid appointments made to non-departmental public bodies since 1 May 1997 were (i) members and (ii) declared supporters of the Labour Party. [152933]

Edward Miliband: Information on membership and expenditure of public bodies is published annually by the Cabinet Office. Figures covering the period 1997 to 2006 are available on the civil service website (www.civilservice.gov.uk). Departments are in the process of publishing information for 2006-07 and a summary will be published by the Cabinet Office when publication by Departments is completed.

Information on the political activity of those appointed to the boards of public bodies is collected by the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments and published in her annual report. The Commissioner's annual report for 2006-07 was published on 8 October 2007. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 363W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, whether the role of KPMG changed once they stopped providing advice to her Department and started advising the Olympic Delivery Authority in July 2006. [154086]

Tessa Jowell: Yes. KPMG were contracted to provide advice to the Department on the development of the Olympic budget until July 2006. Following this, KPMG were contracted by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to provide the ODA with ongoing advice on their cost estimates. KPMG have continued in this role.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 363W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, what documents KPMG provided to her Department when they stopped providing it with advice on the cost of the Olympics in July 2006. [154089]

Tessa Jowell: Other than an invoice for their work up until July 2006, our records show that KPMG did not provide the Department with any further documents.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, how the cost review continued its work after 25 April; [154100]

(2) on what areas of the Olympics budget the cost review continued to work after 25 April. [154101]

Tessa Jowell: After 25 April 2006, the cost review continued its work by analysing and validating the cost estimates and risks underpinning all aspects of the cost package that was subsequently announced to the House on 15 March 2007. This included: Olympic Park and venues; Olympic infrastructure and regeneration; and security.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, which *(a)* ministerial and *(b)* official groups have taken forward the work of the Cost Review Group since 25 April. [154102]

Tessa Jowell: I, and departmental officials, held a number of bilateral meetings with key stakeholders to take forward the cost review work from 25 April 2006 until my statement of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450. No specific ministerial group or official groups were required.

Following my announcement of 15 March 2007, Ministers have established a Funders Group, supported by officials, to continually assess the Olympic budget and agree any further calls on the contingency provision.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what her policy is on the use of the Red Arrows RAF flying team during the 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement; [155620]

(2) if she will make a statement on the involvement of the Red Arrows in the Olympic ceremonies in 2012. [156006]

Tessa Jowell: Newspaper claims that the Government have banned or advised against the Red Arrows' involvement in the opening ceremony or any other celebrations associated with the 2012 Games are completely untrue and unfounded.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for deciding what to include in the opening ceremony and other celebrations, and no decisions have yet been taken about the content. The Red Arrows have already played a memorable role in the celebrations, when they flew over Trafalgar Square to mark London winning the Games.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate *(a)* the number and *(b)* average value of payments made by the Rural Payments Agency in respect of the Common Agricultural Policy in excess of (i) £150,000, (ii) £200,000, (iii) £250,000 and (iv) 300,000; and if he will make a statement. [154770]

Jonathan Shaw: A breakdown of individual CAP payments exceeding £150,000 made to customers over the 2006-07 exchequer year is reflected in the table.

The table includes payments made for expenditure both fully and partly funded by the EC.

This table is based on analysis of all individual payments to customers exceeding £150,000 over the period 1 April 2006 through to 31 March 2007.

Value of payment	*Number of payments*	*Average value of payments (£)*
Over £150,000	1,647	252,826.81
Over £200,000	801	338,504.48
Over £250,000	457	425,872.31
Over £300,000	295	508,639.72

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much has been paid in agricultural subsidies in Bassetlaw constituency in each year since 2005; [155600]

(2) how many farmers have been paid agricultural subsidies in Bassetlaw constituency in each of the last 10 years. [155601]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not currently available, but I have asked officials to collate the data. I will write to the hon. Member with the information in due course and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Animals: Disease Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess whether there is any continuing risk to the farming industry from a failure of bio-security at the *(a)* Compton and *(b)* Pirbright sites of the Institute for Animal Health. [155777]

Jonathan Shaw: All the recommendations in the reports by the Health and Safety Executive and Professor Spratt applying to the Government, the Institute of Animal Health and Merial have been accepted, and already have been, or are being, implemented. In addition, as set out in the Government Statement of 7 September 2007 in response to these investigations, we have taken action that goes beyond these recommendations. These measures ensure the highest level of bio-security at Pirbright and at other laboratories working with specified animal pathogens.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which viruses dangerous to animal or human health have been subject to experimentation at the *(a)* Pirbright and *(b)* Compton sites of the Institute for Animal Health. [155786]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA, as licensor and regulator under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998 have issued the Institute for Animal Health with licences for both the Pirbright and Compton sites to hold category 3 and 4 viruses under that Order. Among the viruses covered by the Order are: bluetongue, African horse sickness, foot and mouth disease, African swine fever, avian influenza, avian oncogenic viruses, coronaviruses and morbiliviruses. It is not possible, for reasons of commercial confidentiality, to give details of specific viruses that have been subject to experimentation.

Birds: Malta

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his Maltese counterpart on reducing the shooting of turtle doves and quails during spring 2008 in that country. [156490]

Joan Ruddock: No such discussions have taken place.

Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the "Birds Directive") lays down rules for the protection, management and control of all wild birds. Member states are required to introduce legislation in line with the birds directive's requirements and ensure it is applied effectively.

The hunting of turtle dove and quail in Malta is permitted under the birds directive. However, during periods of reproduction or during their return to rearing grounds, hunting may only be permitted under derogation and if the strict conditions under Article 9 of the birds directive are met. This is a matter for the Maltese authorities to determine.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155891]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's central spend on campaigns and marketing through the Communications Directorate and the Citizen and Public Engagement Programme is £7,160,000. Within this, the projected spend on advertising and promotional activity is as follows:

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*
Television	1,670,300	—
Radio	45,000	—
Print media	760,500	—

The projected spend for 2008-09 has not yet been created.

The Department does not maintain central records of other communications expenditure outside of the Communications Directorate.

Environment Agency: Manpower

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff were working for the Environment Agency in Peterborough in each year since 1997. [154073]

Mr. Woolas: A breakdown of Environment Agency staff based in Peterborough from 2000 to the present day is provided in the following table.

Details of staff numbers in earlier years is not available due to limited reporting functions prior to 2000.

	Staff
2000	272
2001	268
2002	354
2003	368
2004	453
2005	478
2006	504
2007	498

Staff are based at Kingfisher house and Aqua house, Peterborough.

Farms: Mushrooms

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many visits Ministers have made to mushroom farms since 1991. [156536]

Jonathan Shaw: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions there have been of mushroom farms under the Environment Protection Act 1990. [156537]

Jonathan Shaw: I am not aware of any such prosecutions having been undertaken since DEFRA began collecting data on prosecutions in 2001-02.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many mushroom farms there are in England. [156538]

Jonathan Shaw: According to the June Survey of Agriculture, the number of registered holdings in England specialising in mushroom production at June 2006 was 43. These are holdings where mushroom growing is the predominant activity. Estimates are based on a sample survey and are, therefore, subject to a degree of sampling error.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the cost benefit analysis system for allocating funds to flood risk areas. [156540]

Mr. Woolas: Economic analysis is undertaken as part of project appraisal. It provides an aid to determining the most appropriate solution to a problem, to ensure that the funds secured from general taxation are invested for the benefit of the nation as a whole. It is an effective tool for comparing the impacts of flooding with the costs of reducing risk. Social, health and environmental impacts can often be valued and included in the analysis where they are significant.

Following public consultation, a set of outcome measures has been developed to provide greater clarity on what policies and funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management are intended to achieve. One of the agreed measures will show the overall benefits of flood and coastal erosion risk management activities in

monetary terms. The measures will be used to set targets progressively during the period covered by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, starting with the capital programme in 2008-09.

Flood Control: Agriculture

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with farmers regarding managing land use for flood prevention in flood risk areas. [156542]

Mr. Woolas: As part of DEFRA's 'Making Space for Water' strategy, there are two projects investigating the role that rural land use and land management can play in managing flood risk at the farm and catchment scale. These projects are Catchment Scale Land—Use Management (HA6) and Land Management Practices (HA7). In the development of these projects, the Environment Agency has been working with the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association.

At a local level, the Environment Agency is developing Catchment Flood Management Plans, which consider the role of land use, in consultation with all interested parties.

Floods

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what total funds were available for flood recovery across all Government Departments for *(a)* the county of Gloucestershire, *(b)* the borough of Tewkesbury, *(c)* the city of Gloucester and *(d)* the Cotswolds district. [155859]

Mr. Woolas: To date, the Government have made available a significant package of £57 million to support areas affected by the flooding of June and July 2007. The county of Gloucestershire was allocated £2,623,000 of flood recovery grant, which includes £623,500 for the borough of Tewkesbury, £646,500 for the city of Gloucester and £623,500 for the Cotswold district council. Gloucestershire county council was allocated £1,007,900 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. None of the other local authorities within Gloucestershire provide education or children's services and thus were not eligible for this funding.

The Department for Transport has written to Gloucestershire saying that they will be allocated at least £10 million for highways works and there are ongoing discussions about further funding.

The Regional Development Agency with responsibility for Gloucestershire announced a £2 million flood recovery package for the region. Eligible businesses are able to claim up to a maximum of £2,500. As at 4 October 2007, 455 grant offers had been made, totalling £1,030,000 and 239 of these offers have been claimed, totalling £526,000 paid out by the Regional Development Agency.

This is additional money to that available under the Bellwin scheme. The scheme provides emergency financial assistance from the Government to local authorities, to help meet the uninsurable costs of immediate action to safeguard life or property or prevent severe inconvenience to inhabitants in the case of an emergency or disaster. In recognition of the exceptional nature of the recent flooding, special arrangements apply for these schemes. We have significantly extended the period for which the affected authorities can claim for eligible costs and increased the proportion of costs they can receive to 100 per cent. above the threshold.

Floods: Landfill Tax

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the increase in landfill tax in Hull, following recent flooding in the area and the need to dispose of damaged items; and if he will make a statement. [156543]

Joan Ruddock: Landfill tax provides an important incentive for local authorities to achieve more sustainable waste management.

Hull has estimated that a relatively small increase in municipal waste arisings will occur, because of the flooding. This is within the normal range of variations in annual waste arisings. It should not have a long-term or significant impact on waste management costs.

DEFRA has not assessed specifically the increase in landfill tax in Hull following the flooding in the area.

Foot and Mouth Disease: New Forest

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency plans exist to deal with an outbreak of foot and mouth disease amongst commoners' stock in the New Forest; and if he will make a statement. [156384]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's contingency plan for exotic animal diseases is in three parts:

i. Information on specific animal diseases. This is available on the DEFRA website and ensures that those interested always have access to up to date information.

ii. Emergency preparedness. This provides details of how DEFRA has prepared for an outbreak, including some information on the diseases and what action the Department has taken to be ready.

iii. Framework Response plan. This is an operational manual for those involved in managing handling an outbreak and, whilst it is in the public domain, it is primarily for officials who have responsibility in an outbreak.

The plan is reviewed annually in accordance with the requirements of the Animal Health Act 2002. The current version of the plan was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2006. The plan (together with the additional bluetongue contingency plan) is being used in the current outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue.

DEFRA encourages owners or keepers of stock kept on common land, such as the New Forest, to undertake enhanced surveillance for signs of disease amongst their animals. If they have any concerns they should be reported to their local animal health office.

Landfill

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to allocate increased landfill allowance trading scheme targets to local authorities which are in sustainable communities growth plan areas. [153966]

Joan Ruddock: Under the landfill allowances trading scheme (LATS), allowances have been determined for waste disposal authorities (WDAs) each year from 2004-05 to 2019-20 to provide local authorities with greater certainty for long-term planning. The total number of allowances is limited to ensure that England can meet its share of the European Landfill Directive targets for biodegradable municipal waste. It is not possible to increase the allowances available to individual WDAs without breaching the national targets or reducing the allowances available to other local authorities.

LATS provides flexibility to help local authorities cope with increasing populations through trading, banking and borrowing of allowances. This is intended to give all WDAs every opportunity to avoid becoming liable to a financial penalty for failure to comply with LATS obligations.

Landfill: Recycling

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to investigate the capture and use of gas produced from landfill for *(a)* use as a fuel and *(b)* electricity generation. [156039]

Joan Ruddock: There are currently 324 landfill sites in the UK that utilise methane to generate electricity. The technology for this is well established, with the first site in the UK to generate electricity from landfill gas starting to operate in the 1980s.

The production of electricity from landfill gas is incentivised through the Renewables Obligation (RO), which places an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers to source a proportion of electricity from renewable sources.

Packaging: Recycling

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial incentives there are for small to medium sized firms to recycle *(a)* materials and *(b)* packaging. [156552]

Joan Ruddock: The Landfill Tax acts as a financial incentive for all businesses, not just small to medium sized firms, to encourage recycling of materials. The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme (funded from Landfill Tax) allows businesses to receive free and independent support and advice to help them increase their profitability by sending less waste to landfill and recycling more.

There are no specific financial incentives for small to medium sized companies to recycle packaging. However, the Packaging Regulations do provide an incentive for businesses to reduce and minimise the amount of packaging used. This is because they are obliged to recover and recycle a specified amount of packaging waste; determined, in part, by the amount of packaging they handle. A producer using less packaging, can reduce the costs incurred under these regulations.

Pirbright Laboratory: Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether *(a)* Mr. John Manser and *(b)* any other officials responsible for inspecting, regulating and licensing the Institute for Animal Health site and the Merial site at Pirbright were made aware of the issues raised in the letter from the Merial site director of 20 July 2004; [155667]

(2) whether any Minister in his Department was made aware following the letter to the Department from the Merial site director of 20 July 2004 of the need to renew the old effluent drain between the restricted area of Merial and the Institute of Animal Health effluent treatment plant. [155668]

Jonathan Shaw: Officials, but not Ministers, were made aware of the issues raised in the letter from the Merial site director of 20 July 2004. The letter sought DEFRA's views, as licensor and regulator under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order 1998, on the proposed specification of the replacement pipe. No questions over the integrity of the pipe in relation to requirements under that Order were raised in the letter, previously or subsequently, until the DEFRA-commissioned Health and Safety Executive inspection in August this year.

Plastics: Recycling

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government has made of the volume of plastic recycled in the United Kingdom compared to the volume shipped abroad. [156550]

Joan Ruddock: Most material collected in the UK for recycling is processed in this country.

The total amount of plastic waste arising in the UK is estimated at 5.9 million tonnes a year. The Environment Agency estimates that the level of plastic exports by 2006 would have reached 440,000 tonnes a year. Figures on the amount of plastic recycled in the UK are not held centrally.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions have been held with the plastics industry to ensure that the range of polymers and products does not create obstacles to recycling. [156551]

Joan Ruddock: No formal discussions have been held.

Government cannot oblige producers to use specific materials in their packaging or products. In reality all polymers are recyclable, although in some instances it is not currently economic to do so. The Government are making it easier for local authorities to plan for, and put in place, the waste infrastructure that is needed on the ground in order to re-process more recyclable materials.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government have made of incentives which could be adopted to encourage local authorities to promote kerbside* and other methods of plastic recycling. [156553]

Joan Ruddock: Additional funding for local authorities, including through the private finance initiative, has led to a major increase in kerbside recycling facilities. The Government's Waste Strategy for England 2007 set a new national target for reducing the amount of household wastes not reused, recycled or composted, and increased national targets for the percentage of household waste recycled and composted. It also set a target for the amount of municipal waste recovered.

Technical advice on the collection of plastics for recycling is available for local authorities from the Waste Resources Action programme (WRAP).

Radioactive Wastes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to meet with representatives of English, Scottish or Welsh local authorities to discuss the disposal of radioactive waste; and if he will make a statement. [156450]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: I spoke at the Local Government Association conference 'The long-term management of radioactive wastes—the role of Local Government' on 6 September 2007. There are also regular meetings between DEFRA and the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF), the special interest group of the Local Government Association, to discuss radioactive waste issues.

The Government are consulting publicly on a framework for implementing the geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste. In launching the consultation document on 25 June 2007, DEFRA Ministers wrote to all local authorities in England and Wales to inform those who may have an interest in responding.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councillors: Planning

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to implement the proposals set out in its recent report on Councillor Involvement in Planning Decisions in respect of biological treatment infrastructure. [154152]

Yvette Cooper: Since the report did not recommend changes to the procedure for considering planning applications, but rather pointed to existing good practice, we do not propose to take any further implementation action.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on hospitality in each of the last five years. [156423]

Mr. Iain Wright: For 2006-07 spending on hospitality by Communities and Local Government, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 120-21W. In our predecessor department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, spending on hospitality was £38,803 in 2003-04, £42,126 in 2004-05 and £54,932 in 2005-06. Recorded hospitality expenditure is higher in 2006-07 than in previous years, due to coding parameter changes on the Department's financial system, which means that some catering expenditure is also included.

Departments: Training

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Deprtment's expenditure was on away days located outside her Department's buildings in the last year for which figures are available. [155698]

Mr. Iain Wright: Expenditure related to staff away days is not identified as a separate item on the Department's accounting system, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, any such expenditure could reasonably be expected within the expenditure total for conferences. The total expenditure on conferences for Ministers and civil servants incurred by Communities and Local Government in the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007 was £498,273.

All expenditure on conferences is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 164W, on Home Information Packs, if she will place in the Library a copy of written representations made by *(a)* Rightmove and *(b)* Countrywide in relation to home information packs. [152536]

Yvette Cooper: Responses to public consultations from the Countrywide Assured Group plc. on the content of the home information pack and the home information pack in low demand low value areas have been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 160W, on home information packs, how many voluntary home condition reports have been purchased. [152671]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 160W.

Full results of the trials that include completed transactions will be published when available.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* subsidised and *(b)* non-subsidised energy performance certificates have been purchased; [152846]

(2) how many *(a)* subsidised and *(b)* non-subsidised voluntary home condition reports have been purchased. [152847]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 160W.

The register of home condition reports and energy performance certificates does not include details on the price paid for a report.

Full results of the trials that include completed transactions will be published when completed.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the sale of a freehold interest of a leasehold residential property requires *(a)* an energy performance certificate and *(b)* a home information pack. [153696]

Yvette Cooper: A home information pack, including an energy performance certificate, may be required where a residential property consisting of a single dwelling is marketed for sale with vacant possession, either freehold or under a long lease.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether buyers selling their homes through a property location agent are required to commission a home information pack; and if she will make a statement. [155414]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1273W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the legal definition is of a bedroom for the purposes of the Home Information Pack provisions. [155715]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 161W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if a room described as a *(a)* study, *(b)* spare room and *(c)* HIP replacement room would be classed as a bedroom for the purposes of the requirements for three or four bedroom homes to have a home information pack. [156602]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 161W.

Home Information Packs: Appeals

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures are in place for a home owner to appeal against the information and grading provided in an energy performance certificate; what the estimated average cost of such a procedure is; and whether the register of energy performance certificates may be amended. [156601]

Yvette Cooper: All accreditation schemes are required to have redress procedures which are free to the consumer. Schemes have a duty to ensure assessment standards are high and that any appeals are dealt with in a fair, swift and effective manner. If an EPC was found to be inaccurate a new one would be reissued and lodged in the register.

Home Information Packs: Enforcement

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received from the Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors on the enforceability of home information pack regulations; what response she has made; and how she plans to enforce the regulations. [154076]

Yvette Cooper: We have had a number of discussions with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in the last 12 months on all aspects of home information packs. Section 166 of the Housing Act 2004 places a duty on local trading standards authorities to enforce the home information pack duties in their areas.

Home Information Packs: Fines

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's estimate is of the number of fines to be issued each year against *(a)* home owners and *(b)* estate agents for breaches of the home information pack provisions. [154077]

Yvette Cooper: No such estimate has been made. Local trading standards authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the home information pack duties in their areas.

Home Information Packs: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings representatives of her Department have had with *(a)* Flint Bishop solicitors and *(b)* Labour Legal Services in the last 12 months; and what representations her Department has received from each organisation in relation to home information packs in that period. [155935]

Yvette Cooper: Our records show that the Department for Communities and Local Government has had no meetings with or representations from Flint

Bishop solicitors or Labour Legal Services in the last 12 months on home information packs.

Home Information Packs: Liability

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has produced on the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum liability to be paid out on an insurance policy underwriting the accuracy and completeness of a personal search, in a Home Information Pack, not provided by a solicitor. [155856]

Yvette Cooper: The HIPs (No. 2) Regulations 2007 introduce, for the first time, stringent requirements for all those compiling property searches, including requirements on insurance cover for third parties and liability in the event of financial loss.

The Procedural Guidance which supports the HIPs (No. 2) Regulations 2007 sets out that all those compiling property searches must have suitable insurance arrangements in place with an insurer authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Housing: Energy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the XML Schema for the proposed register of energy performance certificates. [155709]

Yvette Cooper: The XML Schema for the Register of Energy Performance Certificates forms part of the Certification Scheme and Accreditation Scheme Technical Standards and is publicly available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/151075

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with other ministerial colleagues on the provision of policy guidance for the needs of existing homes for energy improvement in any forthcoming policy papers; and if she will make a statement. [155744]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have a wide ranging programme to encourage energy efficiency in existing homes, through policies and programmes run by this Department, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. In line with appropriate practice, any policy guidance issued on energy efficiency matters will be considered collectively. Most recently, for example, Ministers from CLG, DEFRA and BERR jointly issued the Energy Measures report, guidance to local authorities which, amongst other matters, covered how local authorities can promote energy efficiency in their areas.

Housing: Floods

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps her Department is taking to encourage developers to use water resilient flooring and fittings in houses built in areas with a high risk of flooding; [156835]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to support the development of raised level flooring to counter the effects of flooding. [156836]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 15 May Communities and Local Government published a technical guide, "Improving the Flood Resilient Performance of New Buildings—Flood resilient construction." This guide provides information on how homes can be constructed so that, if they are flooded, it should be easier to clean and repair them and enable early reoccupation. This guide includes information on flood resilient flooring, threshold and floor levels. The Department will consider the options for further action in relation to the flood performance of buildings in the light of Sir Michael Pitts' inquiry into the effects of the summer floods.

Meanwhile all development is subject to Planning Policy Statement 25, "Development and Flood Risk (PPS25)" which aims to locate development away from flood risk whenever possible. In those areas where virtually all land is within high flood risk areas and there are few, if any, low risk sites for development, PPS25 imposes new requirements for resilience that ensure that buildings in higher risk areas are safe and less susceptible to flood damage.

The mitigation process described in PPS25 includes the use of resilient or resistant construction. With regard to raising floor levels, while this can assist, it is not without adverse consequences: raised floors can make access and egress more difficult, especially for older people or the infirm; placing buildings on mounds can displace flood water, causing problems elsewhere; raising buildings can create a void under the building where flood water accumulates, bringing problems of removing flood water and contaminants after the flood subsides.

Housing: Inspections

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations her Department has received on compensation payments for home inspectors and energy inspectors. [152421]

Yvette Cooper: As part of the regular correspondence from stakeholders, the Department has received some representations on the issue of compensation.

Local Authorities: Equal Pay

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial provision has been made for local authorities which are conducting pay and grading reviews in order to comply with the Equal Pay Act 1974. [156020]

John Healey: Under the Equal Pay Act 1970, an employer must provide equal pay for the same work or work which is considered objectively to be of equal value. The Local Government Association has sought additional borrowing flexibility for local government through capitalisation. In response, on 28 September 2007 the Government issued £500 million of

capitalisation directions to 46 authorities for the purpose of spending on equal pay back-pay.

A list of these 46 authorities is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/490459.

Religion

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations the Government has received on the activities of *(a)* The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* The New Kadampa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International; and when such representations were received. [156701]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has received correspondence from a member of the public regarding the alleged cultish behaviour of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, New Kadampa Tradition and Soka Gakkai International, and the recommendation of funding to these organisations under Round 2 of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. This representation was received on 1 May 2007. As far as we are aware, no other representation has been received.

Stakeholder Advisory Panel on Home Buying and Selling: Public Appointments

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members are of the Stakeholder Advisory Panel on home buying and selling; and what criteria were used to appoint its members. [153818]

Yvette Cooper: The Stakeholder Advisory Panel on home buying and selling consists of:

Yvette Cooper (chair CLG)
Mike Ockenden (AHIPP)
Peter Bollon-King (NAEA)
Nick Stace (Which?)
Fiona Hoyle (CoPSO)
Michael Coogan (CML)
Simon McWhirter (WWF)
Jeremy Leaf (RICS)
Ted Beardsall (Land Registry)
Paul Marsh (Law Society)
Heather Clayton (OFT)
David Saunders (BERR)
Matthew Symes (Non-executive director)
Jeremy Stanyard (Non-executive director)

Unitary Councils

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many councils she expects to be permitted to move ahead with a unitary bid in the initial stage following the prioritisation process outlined in the latest consultation paper on unitary bids. [155695]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my statement on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the breast cancer re-screening rate, within 36 months is in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* Wakefield; [156379]

(2) what proportion of eligible women in the Leeds/Wakefield breast screening area are receiving scans within the 36 month national standard. [156380]

Ann Keen: 36-month breast cancer screening interval rates for England and Leeds Wakefield and Bradford Pennine, the two screening centres which cover West Yorkshire, are shown in the following table. 38-month interval rates are also given as an indicator of how close intervals are to the national standard of 36 months. Figures are not available for Wakefield alone.

Percentage

	36 month breast cancer screening interval rate—April to June 2007	*38 month breast cancer screening interval rate—April to June 2007*
England	67	90
Bradford Pennine screening centre	69	93
Leeds Wakefield screening centre	10	46

Source:
NHS Cancer Screening Programme

The Government take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously and that is why Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 strategic health authorities in England on 9 February 2007 highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval.

Broomfield Hospital: PFI

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations the Department received *(a)* supporting and *(b)* against the Broomfield private finance initiative scheme; what meetings were organised on this scheme and with whom; and what other consultation was conducted and what the balance of opinion was arising therefrom. [156526]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The former Minister of State (Andy Burnham), met with the hon. Members for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns), Maldon and East Chelmsford (Mr. Whittingdale), the right hon. Member for Saffron Walden (Sir Alan Haselhurst), the hon. Member for Braintree (Mr. Newmark), Chair of the Trust David Bullock, Chief Executive of the Trust Andrew Pike, Helen Davis (from the strategic health authority (SHA)) and Peter Coates, Deputy Director of Finance-Investment, from the Department on Monday 20 November 2006 to discuss progress of the Broomfield private finance initiative scheme.

The full business case, which is supported by local commissioners, the trust and the SHA has been submitted to the Department for approval.

Chronically Sick

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the implementation of the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions; and when the framework will be reviewed. [155949]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework (NSF) for long-term conditions has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of local priorities and needs. The "NSF Good Practice Guide" demonstrates that that a number of organisations have successfully addressed aspects of service delivery outlined in the NSF.

The Department has no plans to review the NSF.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of the documents rediscovered by his Department in 2007 relating to the safety of blood products have *(a)* been and *(b)* not been (i) publicly released and (ii) released to the Archer inquiry to date; and if he will make a statement. [156290]

Dawn Primarolo: Two sets of documents related to blood safety, previously believed to be missing, were recovered in 2006:

some 4,500 documents located in storage in unregistered files. These are now held in 101 registered files.

some 600 documents returned by a firm of private solicitors who acted for claimants in HIV litigation in 1989. These are now held in 20 registered files.

These documents in 121 files are being reviewed and issued in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Documents from 100 files, comprising 80 of the 101 files in category 1 and the 20 files in category 2, have been supplied to the Archer inquiry. Documents from the remaining 21 files will be issued this month, within the timetable agreed with the inquiry team.

The documents are being scanned and placed on the Department's website for public access. So far the documents in 60 of the 101 previously unregistered files have been placed on the Department's website. It is anticipated that documents from all 121 files will be on the Department's website by the end of November.

Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on progress towards full provision of dentistry on the NHS. [155427]

Ann Keen: The fundamental reforms introduced last year have provided for the first time a stable foundation for the national health service to develop dental services that meet local needs.

The recent Departmental report "NHS Dental Reforms: One year on" sets out the progress already made in developing new services and the further action being taken to support the NHS in improving access. This report has been placed in the Library.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153077]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally and to collect it would be at disproportionate cost.

General Medical Services Contract

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to provide NHS employers with a mandate to negotiate the arrangements for the new General Medical Services contract in 2008-08. [156412]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS employers have already begun negotiations with the British Medical Association's General Practitioners' Committee on possible changes to the General Medical Services contract for 2008-09, based on a mandate provided to them by the Department.

General Practitioners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department collects information on the number of foreign nationals in England registered with general practitioners. [156397]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Department does not hold this information centrally.

The Department is currently undertaking a review of access to the national health service by foreign nationals, the review is being conducted jointly with the Home Office Border and Immigration Agency and will cover access to both primary and secondary care.

Health Hazards: Electric Cables

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice he has received from the Health Protection Agency to the Stakeholder Advisory Group on ELF EMF's report; if he will place a copy of the advice in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [156852]

Dawn Primarolo: Following the publication of the Stakeholder Advisory Group on extremely low frequency and electromagnetic fields (SAGE) report, the former Minister of State (Caroline Flint) at the time, wrote to the Health Protection Agency to ask for its considered view and advice to Government. We are currently awaiting a reply.

Health Hazards: Mercury

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on public health of mercury in *(a)* vaccinations, *(b)* dental amalgams and *(c)* low energy light bulbs. [156823]

Dawn Primarolo: As with all medicinal products, vaccine safety is continually monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

with advice from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM). The CHM has thoroughly reviewed the safety of vaccines containing mercury (thiomersal).

Several large studies have found no evidence of a link between thiomersal-containing vaccines and neurodevelopmental disorders. MHRA and CHM advice, available on the MHRA website, is that there is no evidence of harm from the very small quantities of thiomersal contained in some vaccines, with the exception of possible allergic reactions such as skin rashes or local swelling at the site of injection. This view concurs with that of the World Health Organisation, the United States Institute of Medicine and the European Medicines Agency.

The use of dental amalgam is declining in the United Kingdom as a result of increased application of alternatives, changes in the commissioning of primary dental care and a general improvement in dental health. We expect this decline to continue. However it remains an effective direct restorative option and there is no evidence to suggest that its use poses any significant health risk.

No formal assessment has been made in respect of the potential effect on public health of mercury in low energy light bulbs.

Health Services: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head of population on health services in 2006-07 in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* local authority area ranked in order. [155904]

Mr. Bradshaw: Tables showing the spend by head of population in primary care trusts for 2006-07 and social services spending in 2005-06 for each council in ranked order have been placed in the Library. These are for the latest years for which data are available.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* gun shot and *(b)* knife wounds the NHS has treated in the last 12 months. [156834]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected on the number of gun shot and knife wounds the national health service has treated.

Information is available however on those patients who were actually admitted to hospital for gun shot and knife injuries (these figures do not include patients who were treated in accident and emergency departments for gun shot/knife injuries and not admitted). Those cause codes that appear relevant are presented in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes for gun shot and knife wound injuries 2005-06: NHS hospitals, England

		Count
W32	Handgun discharge	44
W33	Rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	73
X72	Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge	10
X73	Intent self-harm by rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	17
X93	Assault by handgun discharge	44
X94	Assault by rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	51
Y22	Handgun discharge undetermined intent	9
Y23	Rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge undetermined intent	11
	Total	259
W26	Contact with knife sword or dagger	5,321

Notes:
1. Finished admission episodes.:
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Cause code:
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
3. Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will address each of the seven questions asked by the hon. Member for Billericay in the letter to his Department on the subject of testosterone deficiency dated 31 May. [155967]

Ann Keen: A response to this letter was sent to the hon. Member on 19 July 2007. This reply answers all the hon. Member's questions and there is nothing further we can add to this response.

NHS Next Stage Review

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* cost to date (i) in total and (ii) broken down by major cost area and *(b)* expected overall cost to the public purse of Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review; [156415]

(2) what progress Lord Darzi is making in his NHS Next Stage Review; how many *(a)* clinicians, *(b)* managers and *(c)* other staff he has received representations from; how many NHS organisations the review team has formally met with since the announcement of the review; whether he still intends to publish an interim report of the work of the review in October; and if he will make a statement; [156416]

(3) how many clinical pathway groups to inform the work of the NHS Next Stage Review have been established in each strategic health authority; and who the members are of each group which has been established. [156417]

Ann Keen: The interim report, published on 4 October, explains that the review is primarily a local process involving thousands of frontline staff, patients and public in the design of care pathways based on best practice evidence. This is core business for the national health service and as such involves no additional cost to the taxpayer.

The success of a review like this depends of course on the thorough involvement of patients, public and staff and good communication. The total departmental spend so far on staff, patients and public engagement in direct connection with the review is £1.2 million.

The clinicians, managers and other staff leading the review work locally are receiving the great majority of representations from clinicians, managers and other staff.

Lord Darzi personally has met with over 1,500 NHS staff in 17 NHS organisations, read more than 1,400 letters and e-mails from people, including NHS staff, from up and down the country and participated in a nationwide day of detailed discussions with 1,000 people including NHS staff from nine towns and cities. An event attended by representatives of 250 stakeholder groups has been held. In addition, officials at the Department of Health regularly meet with representatives from NHS organisations on various issues right across the span of the review.

Each strategic health authority is responsible for establishing eight local clinical pathway groups. Lists of members should be sought directly from the strategic health authorities themselves.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1004W, on NHS: ICT, when the plan of key milestones will be completed; and how it will be made publicly available. [156241]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 270W.

Skin Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating skin cancer in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156446]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1605-06W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK's obligations under the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women have been extended to all UK overseas territories; and if he will make a statement. [155813]

Meg Munn: The Government are working to encourage the extension of the UK's obligation under the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to all the UK populated Overseas Territories. With the agreement of the respective territory governments, we have extended this convention to the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Cayman Islands Government have formally requested that the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women should be extended to them. Further legislative work is ongoing and will need to be completed before the Convention can be extended. The Governments of Bermuda and Gibraltar have also agreed to draft legislation to enable the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to be extended to them.

We will continue to encourage those UK Overseas Territories that have not yet agreed to the extension of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to do so.

Departments: European Indicators Project

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure full participation in the European Indicators Project by official bodies and UK assessment organisations. [154221]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Minister for Schools and Learners, Jim Knight, gave to her on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 382-83W.

Entry Clearances

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of appeals against a refusal to issue a visa were upheld in the last 12 months, broken down by overseas post. [156669]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the following table.

Appeals received, dismissed and allowed in 2006-07

Post	*Appeals received*	*Appeals dismissed*	*Appeals allowed*	*Percentage allowed*
Abu Dhabi	70	25	20	44
Abuja	3,895	3,040	1,105	27
Accra	4,370	4,650	1,680	27
Addis Ababa	1,205	1,500	530	26
Algiers	115	25	5	17
Almaty	25	10	5	33
Amman	485	220	115	34
Amsterdam	65	55	15	21
Ankara	355	170	205	55
Ashgabat	60	25	15	38
Asmara	40	50	45	47
Athens	15	20	15	43
Bahrain	40	5	5	50
Baku	25	10	0	0
Bandar Seri Begawan	5	5	0	0
Bangkok	645	270	280	51
Banjul	430	250	90	26
Beijing	280	220	125	36
Beirut	165	95	35	27
Belgrade	65	35	25	42
Bogota	310	165	75	31
Bratislava	0	45	0	0
Bridgetown	45	30	5	14

Appeals received, dismissed and allowed in 2006-07

Post	*Appeals received*	*Appeals dismissed*	*Appeals allowed*	*Percentage allowed*[1]
Brussels	60	20	5	20
Bucharest	315	265	140	35
Budapest	0	5	0	0
Cairo	235	105	75	42
Canberra	125	10	5	33
Caracas	30	15	5	25
Casablanca	175	65	85	57
Chennai	1,580	520	335	39
Chicago	125	60	15	20
Chisinau	60	20	50	71
Chongqing	80	20	35	64
Colombo	1,275	850	870	51
Copenhagen	45	50	15	23
Dakar	25	30	10	25
Damascus	50	80	45	36
Dar Es Salaam	190	140	65	32
Dhaka	9,285	4,455	4,255	49
Doha	10	10	5	33
Dubai	265	100	50	33
Dublin	100	55	15	21
Dusseldorf	100	85	30	26
Freetown	360	195	110	36
Gaborone	25	25	10	29
Geneva	0	0	0	—
Georgetown	55	25	20	44
Guangzhou	610	215	350	62
Hanoi	55	30	25	45
Harare	2,115	1,375	615	31
Havana	0	0	0	—
Helsinki	30	5	5	50
Hong Kong	105	85	45	35
Islamabad	32,740	13,070	13,910	52
Istanbul	465	270	280	51
Jakarta	90	55	40	42
Jedda	95	70	55	44
Jerusalem	5	15	5	25
Kampala	895	585	365	38
Karachi	3,050	655	820	56
Kathmandu	940	260	185	42
Khartoum	95	35	20	36
Kiev	325	165	145	47
Kingston	2,635	1,670	1,580	49
Kinshasa	280	160	60	27
Kolkata	125	35	20	36
Kuala Lumpur	215	135	60	31
Kuwait City	70	50	15	23
La Paz	5	0	0	—
Lagos	24,290	4,985	6,165	55
Lilongwe	705	175	45	20
Lima	10	15	10	40
Lisbon	0	5	0	0
Los Angeles	145	25	20	44
Luanda	45	15	10	40
Lusaka	215	105	40	28
Madrid	100	50	15	23
Manila	2,050	1,210	925	43
Mexico City	5	0	0	—
Minsk	45	15	15	50
Montevideo	0	0	0	—
Moscow	75	60	60	50
Mumbai	8,635	3,390	3,115	48
Muscat	35	15	10	40
Nairobi	855	625	410	40
New Delhi	11,745	4,680	7,170	61

Appeals received, dismissed and allowed in 2006-07

Post	*Appeals received*	*Appeals dismissed*	*Appeals allowed*	*Percentage allowed*[1]
New York	270	155	60	28
Nicosia	195	70	35	33
Oslo	15	5	10	67
Ottawa	230	40	10	20
Panama City	0	0	0	—
Paris	45	40	10	20
Port Louis	290	145	105	42
Port of Spain	40	15	10	40
Prague	0	5	5	50
Pretoria	1,610	765	190	20
Quito	55	30	20	40
Rabat	340	135	175	56
Rangoon	20	30	20	40
Riga	5	5	0	0
Rio De Janeiro	845	315	95	23
Riyadh	35	40	30	43
Rome	55	25	20	44
Sanaa	250	175	95	35
Santo Domingo	30	0	5	100
Sarajevo	10	5	5	50
Seoul	160	40	20	33
Shanghai	90	45	45	50
Singapore	70	35	15	30
Skopje	445	225	145	39
Sofia	140	400	125	24
St. Petersburg	5	5	5	50
Stockholm	75	50	25	33
Suva	15	0	10	100
Tallinn	0	5	0	0
Tashkent	10	0	10	100
Tbilisi	20	15	10	40
Tehran	1,810	980	520	35
Tel Aviv	60	25	0	0
Tirana	450	295	115	28
Tokyo	20	30	15	33
Tripoli	70	65	15	19
Tunis	475	345	255	43
Ulaanbaatar	35	5	5	50
Valletta	5	0	0	—
Victoria	20	5	10	67
Vienna	10	10	0	0
Vilnius	0	0	0	—
Warsaw	15	0	0	—
Wellington	5	5	5	50
Windhoek	0	15	0	0
Yaounde	535	295	175	37
Yekaterinburg	25	10	5	33
Yerevan	5	5	10	67
Zagreb	10	5	0	0
Grand total	130,100	57,350	49,695	46

[1] Percentage allowed is calculated by the number of appeals allowed, divided by the number of appeals resolved (dismissed plus allowed).

Note:
Due to the length of the appeal process the total number of appeals allowed and dismissed does not equal the total received in any given year.

Source:
2006-07 Provisional Entry Clearance Statistics (to be published)

Northern Cyprus: Churches

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the condition of Greek Cypriot churches and cemeteries in northern Cyprus. [156201]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Pending reunification, preserving the cultural heritage of Cyprus, including churches and cemeteries in northern Cyprus, remains an issue of great importance. More can and should be done in this regard, and I sympathise with all those affected. The UN, and also the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, are aware of this issue and we support them in their efforts to address the problem. The process envisaged by the 8 July Agreement would provide a framework in which the issue of preserving cultural heritage could be discussed and addressed by the two communities.

Serbia: International Whaling Commission

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with the Serbian Foreign Minister in London on 18 September on Serbia's possible membership of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [156047]

Meg Munn: Although my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's meeting with the Serbian Foreign Minister covered a range of international issues, whaling was not discussed.

Uganda: Elections

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the European Union Elections Observer Mission report on the 2006 elections in Uganda; what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on this report; what proposals he has made on this subject to his European counterparts ahead of the December EU-Africa summit; and if he will make a statement. [153786]

David Miliband: In July 2006, the EU election observer mission released its final report on the February 2006 elections. The report concluded that the elections fell short of full compliance with international principles for genuine democratic elections. However, the report also said that despite some shortcomings on election day, voting was generally well administered, transparent and competitive.

The UK, along with our EU partners, has a regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda on all aspects of developing multi-party democracy and engaging with the opposition, building towards the next elections, due to take place in 2011.

The report and recommendations were discussed in detail by EU Heads of Mission in Kampala, including with the Government of Uganda. We will continue to refer to it regularly in the run-up to the next elections. I have not had discussions on this issue with my EU counterparts. The agenda of the December EU-Africa summit has not been finalised. However, the UK supports the inclusion of a discussion of governance throughout Africa.

USA: Prince Charles

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether before Sir Michael Peat's press conference on 26 June his Department was aware that the official gift given during the official visit to the USA in 2005 by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to President Bush had been selected and purchased by Michael Fawcett; and if he will make a statement. [156853]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 26 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1473W.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 49-50W, on the USA: Prince Charles, and with reference to the letter subsequently sent to the hon. Member for Thurrock on 16 May 2007, how much of the cost of gifts was spent purchasing the Churchill Book presented by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as an official present to President Bush; whether the reimbursement for its purchase was paid from the public purse to Premier Mode, Michael Fawcett, a consultant or His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's Household; and if he will make a statement. [156854]

Mr. Jim Murphy: None of the cost of the official gift to President Bush was included in the cost of gifts in the letter of 16 May to my hon. Friend from my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett). The letter contained details of the cost of gifts presented by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall during the visit to the USA in January 2007. The official gift of a book written by Sir Winston Churchill was presented to President Bush during the visit in November 2005. The book was purchased by the Household of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. In line with normal practice the cost was reimbursed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as sponsoring Department.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's Household was consulted in preparing the answer given to the hon. Member for Thurrock on 17 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1491W, on the United States (Prince of Wales's Visit); and if he will make a statement. [156855]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Yes; it is our normal practice to consult all stakeholders when answering parliamentary questions.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what basis Michael Fawcett was authorised to select and purchase the official gift given by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to President Bush during his official visit to the USA in 2005; and when Mr Fawcett's role in this task became known to his Department. [156856]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Gifts are selected by the Royal Household under guidelines set by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The first reference to Michael Fawcett in this context was in my hon. Friend's parliamentary question (UIN 26865) that was answered by my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) on 17 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1492W.

Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to meet *(a)* the President and *(b)* the Prime Minister of Yemen. [155835]

Dr. Howells: Foreign engagements for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers are kept under constant review. It is not our practice to announce such visits until they are firm. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are often not possible until very shortly before the day of travel. Our relationship with Yemen is, of course, a very important one for the Government.

PRIME MINISTER

Armed Conflict: Terrorism

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to take advice from the security services on the likely effect on the incidence of terrorist events of any future UK military campaign prior to undertaking such a campaign. [154097]

The Prime Minister: Before committing to military action I would, of course, expect to take advice from all relevant bodies.

Cabinet Committee on Animal Terrorism

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Prime Minister why he has ended the work of the Cabinet Committee on animal terrorism. [154015]

The Prime Minister: The Government remain fully committed to tackling animal rights extremism. On 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 46WS, I announced a new Cabinet Committee structure copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. There are now a smaller number of broader ranging, more cross-cutting Committees. Under the new structure, the new Domestic Affairs (Justice and Crime) sub-Committee will be responsible for reviewing progress in tackling animal rights extremism.

Chequers: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to publish the list of guests who were entertained at Chequers in 2006-07. [153607]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1110W.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether Chris Leslie holds a position remunerated from the public purse; and if he will make a statement; [152722]

(2) whether Wilf Stephenson holds a position remunerated by the public purse; and if he will make a statement; [152728]

(3) whether Deborah Mattinson holds a position remunerated by the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [152729]

The Prime Minister: No.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1467W, if he will place in the Library a copy of the job description of his adviser on political press issues. [154105]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1467W.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister which guests he has entertained at *(a)* No. 10 Downing street and *(b)* Chequers since 27 June 2007. [153346]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 26 July 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website: http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12687.asp, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) to which periodicals his Office subscribes; [153156]

(2) how much was spent by his Office on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months; [153157]

(3) what magazines, newspapers and periodicals No. 10 Downing street and his Offices subscribed to *(a)* before and *(b)* since 27 June. [153531]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 9 October 2007 (153289, 153290, 153530).

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153152]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 9 October 2007 (153283).

Departments: Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153158]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 3W.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business class flights in the last 12 months. [153159]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 8 October 2007 (153286).

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153155]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 9 October 2007 (153288).

Iraq: Weapons

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister what source of information was cited in intelligence reports to the Government immediately before the decision to go to war with Iraq in March 2003 and subsequently refuted as a reliable source of information; what assessment he has made of whether this source of information existed; whether this source was a case of the UK intelligence service being misled; what the nature was of the subsequent inquiries which led to the refutation of this source of information; and if he will make a statement. [152615]

The Prime Minister: These matters have been examined during the course of the Butler Review and other inquiries, and covered during debates and statements on Iraq and in briefings by my predecessor's official spokesman. All relevant information has been placed in the public domain in as far as that could be done without prejudicing national security.

Legislation: Queen Elizabeth II

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Prime Minister what procedures were followed in relation to informing the Queen about the announcement of the draft legislative programme. [154471]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 721W.

Official Residences

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what the total cost to public funds has been of entertainment at *(a)* Chequers, *(b)* Chevening and *(c)* Dorneywood since 1 May 1997. [151277]

The Prime Minister: For information on entertainment costs at Chequers for the financial year 2006-07 I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1108W. For information prior to this date I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor, the right hon. Tony Blair, on 11 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 794W.

Responsibility for Chevening is a matter for the Foreign Office. In respect of Dorneywood, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Secretary at the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Chris Leslie) on 28 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 484W. Since my right hon. Friend the former Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Prescott) relinquished the use of Dorneywood, any costs associated with official use have fallen to the relevant Department.

Parliamentary Private Secretaries: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister what the total estimated annual cost is of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space and *(d)* administrative support for his new Parliamentary Private Secretary. [154609]

The Prime Minister: Parliamentary Private Secretaries are appointed in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code. They do not receive salaries or expenses.

Tony Blair: Security

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with the Quartet on security arrangements for the former right hon. Member for Sedgefield in his role as Special Envoy to the Middle East; [153410]

(2) what the cost has been to the public purse of providing security protection for the former right hon. Member for Sedgefield since he left office; [153414]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of security protection for Mr. Blair in 2007-08. [153415]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to meet the President of Yemen. [156277]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 11 October 2007

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Postal Services: West Yorkshire

10. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department plans to announce which post offices in West Yorkshire are due to close and the proposed dates of the closures. [156877]

Mr. McFadden: On 17 May, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network.

Post Office Ltd is carrying this forward through 50 local area implementation plans over the next 15 months.

No decisions have been made about any individual post offices in West Yorkshire. According to the timetable set out by Post Office Ltd., which is publicly available on its website, the local consultation on the West Yorkshire plan is scheduled to begin in April next year.

Economic Partnership Agreements

11. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on negotiations on the European Union economic partnership agreements. [156878]

Mr. Thomas: The economic partnership agreements that the European Union is negotiating with the six regions of the African Caribbean and Pacific countries are at a critical point. We would be happy to keep the House informed as the negotiations progress.

Postal Services

13. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made with the Post Office's network consultation; and if he will make a statement. [156880]

Mr. McFadden: On 17 May, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network. Post Office Ltd is now carrying that forward through around 50 local implementation plans.

Consultations on the first area plans were launched on 2 October. This process will continue over the next 15 months.

Competition Policy

14. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on promoting competition within the EU. [156881]

Mr. Timms: Our policy is for an effective, proactive competition regime, as key to tackling—for example—hard-core cartels, and to encouraging innovation, quality and value for money. The UK and EU have among the best competition regimes in the world. We are committed to further improvement.

Renewable Energy

15. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will consider the introduction of a feed-in tariff to support the development of renewable energy. [156882]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have considered the use of feed-in tariffs for this purpose. However, we remain firmly committed to the renewables obligation as the principal means of driving the deployment of large-scale renewable electricity in the UK. The renewables obligation has been successful in driving deployment, offers continuity of policy to maintain investor confidence, and fits well with our pro-competitive approach to energy markets.

World Trade

16. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the progress of negotiations in the current world trade round. [156883]

Mr. Thomas: Negotiations on all aspects of the Doha Development Agenda continue to take place at the WTO in Geneva. The UK Government remain fully committed to working with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other WTO members to secure an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha Round.

Yorkshire Forward

17. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications there have been to the small business recovery scheme provided by Yorkshire Forward. [156884]

Mr. Timms: By the end of last week there had been 1,135 applications.

Enterprise: South Derbyshire

19. **Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on potential infrastructure development to permit business location and growth in South Derbyshire. [156887]

Mr. Timms: The Regional Funding Allocation processes prioritises key infrastructure schemes of regional significance. The South Derbyshire Local Transport Plan sets out local schemes to be brought forward for funding consideration. Key current projects in South Derbyshire include access to the Drakelow Power Station site, and the new rail freight facility. The report on the latter project is due to be published next month.

UK Competitiveness

Mr. Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to improve UK competitiveness. [156885]

Mr. Timms: The Government are committed to achieving continued long-term improvements in UK competitiveness, through raising long-term productivity growth and thereby reducing the productivity gap with our international competitors.

This week's pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review illustrate that continued commitment with policies aimed at improving performance through the five drivers of productivity: investment, innovation, skills, enterprise and competition. These include increased investment in higher education and skills, continued development of a world-class science base and simplifications of the tax system.

This is underpinned by the Government's commitment to maintaining macroeconomic stability, which provides firms and individuals with the certainty needed to invest for the future.

Coats Viyella

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the East Midlands Development Agency paid for the Coats Viyella site in Worksop; and how much has been spent on security for the site. [155602]

Mr. Timms: The East Midlands Development Agency (emda) purchased the Coats Viyella site for £576,000 on 30th March 2001. Between 30th March 2001 and 25th April 2006, when emda owned the site, it spent £223,000 on its security.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what accounts directions were issued by his Department's predecessors in financial year *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156626]

Mr. Timms: Under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury issues accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Funds Act 1973 to trading funds.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform operates a policy for the issue of accounts directions, where they remain existent until superseded by a new direction.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies. Where an existing accounts direction is in place this has also been noted.

2005-06

Issued Accounts Directions

Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Advantage West Midlands Regional Development Agency.

East Midlands Regional Development Agency.

East of England Regional Development Agency.

North West Regional Development Agency.

One North East Regional Development Agency.

South East England Regional Development Agency.

South West of England regional Development Agency.

Yorkshire Forward Regional Development Agency.

Civil Nuclear Police Authority.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Existing Account Directions

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils.

Economic and Social Research Council.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Medical Research Council.

Natural Environment Research Council.

Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council.

Research Council Pension Schemes.

British Hallmarking Council.

Coal Authority.

Competition Commission.

Competition Service.

Consumer Council for Postal Services.

Design Council.

Gas and Electricity Consumer Council.

Hearing Aid Council.

National Consumer Council.

Simpler Trade Procedures Board.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

2006-07

Issued Accounts Directions

Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Economic and Social Research Council.

Medical Research Council.

Natural Environment Research Council.

Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council.
Research Council Pension Schemes.

Existing Account Directions

Advantage West Midlands Regional Development Agency.
East of England Regional Development Agency.
East Midlands Regional Development Agency.
North West Regional Development Agency.
One North East Regional Development Agency.
South East England Regional Development Agency.
South West of England regional Development Agency.
Yorkshire Forward Regional Development Agency.
British Hallmarking Council.
Civil Nuclear Police Authority.
Coal Authority.
Competition Commission.
Competition Service.
Consumer Council for Postal Services.
Design Council.
Gas and Electricity Consumer Council.
Hearing Aid Council.
National Consumer Council.
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
Simpler Trade Procedures Board.
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department and its predecessors have bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156740]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has not purchased any new laptops, mobile telephones or personal digital assistant devices as a consequence of any Cabinet reshuffle. The Department recovers assigned ICT equipment from departing ministerial teams and reallocates the devices accordingly. If insufficient devices for ministerial teams are available at the time of a Cabinet reshuffle, the Department utilises devices that are within the reserve capacity held by the Department's ICT suppliers as contingency and recovered devices are returned to this capacity pool. The Department's arrangements with its ICT suppliers are structured such that this capacity is not charged for until used and the net effect on the ICT budget as a consequence is zero.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Complaints

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service's consultation on its complaints policy; and if he will make a statement. [154955]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 13 September 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the parliamentary question that you recently tabled:

153997 - To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he intends to publish the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service's consultation on its complaints policy; and if he will make a statement.

Cafcass plans to review its complaints policy, to update it in line with the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Guidance "Getting the Best From Complaints" issued in August 2006, for Local Authorities on how complaints from children are responded to. Cafcass would like to incorporate parts of the guidance into its complaints policy.

Cafcass has started an internal review, and it plans to consult externally next year.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Children: Autism

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the amount of money provided for in the Transition Support programme which will be spent on helping young people with *(a)* autism and *(b)* Asperger's syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [157340]

Kevin Brennan: We are committed to introducing the Transition Support programme over the next three years, with £19 million secured as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for the Department. In the "Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families" report published in May, we acknowledged that children and young people with more complex needs require more carefully prepared and intricate packages of support as they move to adulthood.

We have not undertaken any estimate of indicative spending on young people on the autistic spectrum. The focus of the programme is not to target by type of special educational need or disability but to enable and support all disabled young people to move towards and into a new stage of life.

To make initial progress, the Department will be publishing transition guidance jointly with Department of Health later this month, to support local agencies to better support disabled young people to make the transition to adulthood.

Private Education: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in each London borough attended independent schools in each year since 2003-04. [157082]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following tables.

Independent schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils aged 5 to 10 and 11 to 15[2] position in January each year, each London borough

		2004				2005			
		Pupils aged 5 to 10		Pupils aged 11 to 15		Pupils aged 5 to 10		Pupils aged 11 to 15	
		No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]
	England	205,340	5.5	232,730	7.1	202,670	5.5	232,080	7.1
	London	51,390	9.5	43,090	10.0	51,220	9.5	42,980	10.0
	Inner London	25,120	12.5	19,370	13.6	25,280	12.6	19,490	13.6
202	Camden	3,629	29.1	1,847	19.7	3,590	28.7	1,770	19.0
201	City of London	373	68.4	1,033	100.0	391	69.8	1,074	100.0
204	Hackney	3,051	18.3	1,580	18.0	3,053	18.3	1,612	17.6
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,634	18.0	2,063	24.8	1,855	20.0	2,082	25.6
309	Haringey	576	3.3	840	7.1	599	3.5	869	7.3
206	Islington	256	2.2	119	1.5	250	2.2	115	1.4
207	Kensington and Chelsea	4,822	46.6	2,592	45.5	5,023	47.6	2,566	45.3
208	Lambeth	1,240	7.6	489	6.0	1,148	7.0	478	5.7
209	Lewisham	645	3.6	893	6.9	634	3.6	864	6.8
316	Newham	126	0.5	163	0.9	273	1.2	243	1.3
210	Southwark	1,468	7.5	2,337	16.2	1,489	7.7	2,292	15.5
211	Tower Hamlets	203	1.2	597	4.3	220	1.3	655	4.8
212	Wandsworth	4,489	25.6	2,202	18.0	4,187	24.0	2,285	18.5
213	Westminster	2,605	23.9	2,616	26.7	2,567	23.4	2,584	26.4
	Outer London	26,270	7.7	23,720	8.3	25,940	7.7	23,490	8.2
301	Barking and Dagenham	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
302	Barnet	2,296	10.1	2,353	11.9	2,334	10.2	2,361	12.2
303	Bexley	544	3.1	0	0.0	542	3.1	0	0.0
304	Brent	1,040	5.5	704	4.9	877	4.7	714	4.9
305	Bromley	1,966	8.7	1,761	8.7	1,870	8.4	1,725	8.6
306	Croydon	2,427	9.1	3,149	13.9	2,386	9.1	3,126	13.8
307	Ealing	2,339	10.4	2,167	13.5	2,223	9.9	2,093	13.1
308	Enfield	952	4.2	356	1.9	947	4.2	351	1.8
203	Greenwich	1,093	6.3	1,014	7.2	1,058	6.2	1,009	7.2
310	Harrow	1,418	8.9	2,156	16.3	1,454	9.1	2,103	16.1
311	Havering	534	3.1	173	1.1	517	3.0	181	1.2
312	Hillingdon	1,542	7.7	1,292	7.7	1,574	7.9	1,271	7.7
313	Hounslow	536	3.5	253	1.8	557	3.7	241	1.7
314	Kingston upon Thames	1,433	14.2	1,503	16.6	1,374	13.2	1,528	16.7
315	Merton	1,655	13.6	1,138	12.3	1,651	13.4	1,139	12.4
317	Redbridge	2,198	10.6	863	5.1	2,187	10.5	866	5.1
318	Richmond upon Thames	3,009	23.2	3,429	31.5	3,072	23.2	3,410	31.6
319	Sutton	805	6.3	523	3.9	803	6.3	510	3.8
320	Waltham Forest	486	2.8	884	6.1	515	3.0	864	6.0

		2006				2007			
		Pupils aged 5 to 10		Pupils aged 11 to 15		Pupils aged 5 to 10		Pupils aged 11 to 15	
		No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]
	England	200,440	5.5	233,820	7.2	199,030	5.6	232,620	7.3
	London	51,120	9.5	42,730	9.9	51,740	9.6	43,150	10.0
	Inner London	25,430	12.7	19,330	13.5	26,030	13.0	19,670	13.7
202	Camden	3,626	29.1	1,744	18.6	3,587	28.9	1,775	18.9
201	City of London	378	67.9	1,068	100.0	385	69.1	1,122	100.0
204	Hackney	3,197	19.0	1,430	16.1	3,298	19.5	1,453	16.6
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,792	19.5	2,081	26.2	2,147	22.5	2,137	26.9
309	Haringey	624	3.6	883	7.3	749	4.3	924	7.6
206	Islington	242	2.1	125	1.5	261	2.3	130	1.6
207	Kensington and Chelsea	5,112	48.2	2,460	44.3	5,224	48.8	2,464	44.2
208	Lambeth	1,116	6.8	461	5.3	992	6.1	461	5.2
209	Lewisham	676	3.8	899	7.1	636	3.6	873	7.0

		2006				2007			
		Pupils aged 5 to 10		Pupils aged 11 to 15		Pupils aged 5 to 10		Pupils aged 11 to 15	
		No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]	No.	%[3]
316	Newham	316	1.4	203	1.1	406	1.7	260	1.4
210	Southwark	1,474	7.7	2,267	15.2	1,391	7.4	2,267	15.3
211	Tower Hamlets	239	1.4	735	5.3	199	1.2	762	5.4
212	Wandsworth	4,141	23.8	2,325	18.7	4,187	24.0	2,362	19.1
213	Westminster	2,497	22.8	2,653	27.2	2,569	23.2	2,683	27.4
	Outer London	25,690	7.6	23,400	8.1	25,710	7.6	23,480	8.2
301	Barking and Dagenham	29	0.2	0	0.0	39	0.3	4	0.0
302	Barnet	2,369	10.4	2,383	12.3	2,452	10.8	2,388	12.4
303	Bexley	547	3.1	0	0.0	527	3.1	0	0.0
304	Brent	806	4.3	744	5.0	768	4.1	713	4.8
305	Bromley	1,817	8.2	1,593	8.0	1,820	8.3	1,557	8.0
306	Croydon	2,378	9.1	3,053	13.6	2,373	9.2	3,000	13.5
307	Ealing	2,134	9.6	2,004	12.4	2,045	9.1	1,932	11.9
308	Enfield	948	4.2	382	2.0	906	4.0	416	2.2
203	Greenwich	1,040	6.1	1,011	7.4	1,117	6.6	1,010	7.5
310	Harrow	1,413	8.9	2,105	16.1	1,401	8.9	2,127	16.2
311	Havering	512	3.1	162	1.0	491	3.0	153	1.0
312	Hillingdon	1,588	7.9	1,277	7.7	1,590	7.9	1,311	7.9
313	Hounslow	566	3.7	307	2.2	592	3.9	281	2.0
314	Kingston upon Thames	1,301	12.5	1,546	17.0	1,270	12.3	1,574	17.3
315	Merton	1,574	12.6	1,163	12.6	1,544	12.4	1,188	12.9
317	Redbridge	2,161	10.3	854	5.0	2,146	10.2	855	4.9
318	Richmond upon Thames	3,230	23.8	3,434	32.1	3,327	24.2	3,529	32.8
319	Sutton	767	6.1	488	3.6	772	6.2	529	3.8
320	Waltham Forest	514	3.0	892	6.1	525	3.0	912	6.3

[1] Excludes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[2] Age as at 31 August in previous year (start of academic year).
[3] Number of pupils in independent schools expressed as a percentage of number of pupils in same age group across all schools (excludes dually registered pupils).
Note:
National and regional totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Pupils: Intimidation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research the Government have conducted into bullying of *(a)* transgendered pupils at school and *(b)* children at school who have one or more transgendered parent. [157806]

Kevin Brennan: We have not conducted any research into the bullying of transgender pupils at school, or into children at school who have one or more transgender parents. However, we are aware of the research which Professor Stephen Whittle carried out for the Equalities Review on this issue.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155886]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's actual and planned spend on promotional and advertising campaigns for 2007-08 is follows:

	£
(i) Television	1,500,000
(ii) Radio	305,000
(iii) Print media	5,552,080

Publicity budgets are not held centrally and the budgets for 2008-9 have not yet been agreed.

Fire Services: Quedgeley

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the future of fire control at the tri-service emergency headquarters in Quedgeley. [156298]

John Healey: The Gloucestershire tri-service centre will continue to house staff from all three emergency services and support tri-service working after the fire and rescue service control is moved to the South West regional control centre. The Government are committed to creating a new national network of nine resilient regional control centres which will enhance the ability of the Fire and Rescue Service to respond to

major incidents and natural disasters in a co-ordinated, efficient and effective manner, which will better protect the public. The new regional control centres will however build on the valuable lessons learnt on joint working from the tri-service pilots, including the recent experience of dealing with flooding in Gloucestershire.

Immigration: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of total housing demand which would result from the Office for National Statistics' assumption of long-term net migration of 190,000 each year for the number of years for which forecasts are available; and what number of housing units this proportion would represent. [156472]

Mr. Iain Wright: An updated estimate of the amount of household growth attributable to net migration will be part of the next major release, due in 2008, of the Department's household projections. The household projection updates follow the rolling programme of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) population projections. The ONS is due to publish, on 23 October, the 2006-based national projections that include the assumption of long-term annual net migration into the UK of 190,000. In 2008, the ONS will publish sub-national population projections on this 2006 the base which will feed into the next major update of the household projections. These new household projections will also take account of the recent trends in household formation and of the Office for National Statistics' latest projections of marital status and cohabitation.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Lottery Fund

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the balance is of the Big Lottery Fund; and how much of the balance is *(a)* committed and *(b)* uncommitted. [156927]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Big Lottery Fund's National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) balance at 30 September 2007 was approximately £550 million.

At 30 September its outstanding 'hard' commitments were £1,060 million and its 'soft' commitments were £94 million. Its total forward commitments, therefore, exceeded its NLDF balance by about £604 million.

Cricket: Floods

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps his Department has taken to help cricket clubs affected by the summer floods; [156928]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2140W on cricket: floods, if he will provide an update on Sport England funding to cricket clubs affected by flooding. [156931]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Funding from the National Sports Foundation, managed on behalf of the Government by Sport England, may support flood repairs for sports facilities, taking into account all proceeds from insurance cover. To date no applications of this nature have been received. In addition, Sport England's Yorkshire and West Midlands regions are providing advice and guidance to support sports provision provided by clubs and others affected by the floods.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156733]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not record this information on a year-by-year basis. Additionally, when an individual no longer requires a piece of equipment, it is often passed to another user. Therefore, it is not possible to provide a breakdown by departmental Minister.

National Sports Foundation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the future of the National Sports Foundation and its funding levels. [156930]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The intention is for Sport England to build on the success of the National Sports Foundation, but I am not yet in a position to confirm funding allocations for sport.

Sportsmatch

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the future of Sportsmatch. [156929]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The intention is for Sport England to build on the past success of Sportsmatch, but I am not yet in a position to confirm funding allocations for sport.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on upgrading Single Living Accommodation units to Standard One in each financial year since 1997. [153388]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Expenditure on upgrading Single Living Accommodation (SLA) to Grade 1 physical condition was not centrally collated until 2002-03. The information available is as follows:

	SLAM	Other SLA	£ million Total
2002-03	1.0	24.2	25.2
2003-04	67.7	63.8	131.5
2004-05	120.9	166.1	287.0
2005-06	151.0	62.0	213.0
2006-07	131.1	100.7	231.8

The figures for 2002-03 represent only part of the expenditure in that year and the beginning of specific recording of such expenditure.

Expenditure for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on upgrading Service Families accommodation to Standard One in each financial year since 1997. [153423]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: The former Defence Housing Executive (DHE) was responsible for the maintenance and new build of housing in Great Britain until 2004 after which the responsibility passed to Defence Estates (DE). The DHE only published agency accounts from 2001-02. The information available from this source and DE is as follows:

	Capital	Other	£ million Total
2001-02	25.3	n/a	25.3
2002-03	25.5	n/a	25.5
2003-04	25.2	8.3	35.5
2004-05	12.1	6.0	18.1
2005-06	28.0	4.4	32.4
2006-07	3.9	12.5	16.4

The maintenance and investment in service families accommodation overseas and in Northern Ireland is carried out by the respective budget holders. It is therefore held separately and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

During the period from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2007 this Department upgraded around 15,000 houses in Great Britain to Standard One for Condition.

Departments: BAe Systems

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1617W, on Departments: BAe Systems, for what reasons the annual figures for applicants given differ from those in the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, 1132W. [156751]

Des Browne: My answer given on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1132W, noted that the figures had been compiled from manual historic records and that it was therefore possible that some cases might not be included in the figures. Further research of records allowed my answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1617W, to give a fuller picture of the applications in each year.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155893]

Derek Twigg: Not all the information is held in the format requested.

The projected spending on recruit advertising and marketing campaigns for the armed forces for financial year (FY) 2007-08 is detailed in the following table. It should be noted that these figures take no account of departmental public relations activities or Veterans awareness campaigns.

	Television	Radio	Print media	£ million Total
Naval Service	2.600	0.020	0.450	3.070
Army	9.403	0.800	1.100	11.303
RAF	2.748	0.336	0.589	3.673

Figures for FY 2008-09 are not yet available as the services are in the process of preparing budget requirements for next year, and details will not be confirmed until March 2008.

The projected spending for MOD civilian advertising and promotional campaigns organised centrally for FY 2007-08 is £1.1 million, and for FY 2008-09 it is £1.5 million. It is not possible to break down these costs further.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan have received treatment for physical or psychological injuries in the NHS in the last six months. [155720]

Derek Twigg: The MOD collates statistics of personnel evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) located at University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT) which is the main receiving hospital trust for service personnel who are medically evacuated from overseas. In the period 1 April until 30 September 2007 RCDM had admitted 197 UK service patients from Iraq and 222 UK service patients from Afghanistan to UHBFT and other NHS hospitals in the Birmingham area. The figures relate to patients aeromedically evacuated from theatre as a result of battle injuries, non-battle injuries and disease. They do not include patients being reviewed or returning for further surgery following earlier treatment in the UK. The breakdown of these figures is set out as follows:

	Iraq	Afghanistan
Battle field injuries	88	111
Non-battle field injuries	70	59
Disease	39	52
Total	197	222

Other less seriously injured patients may be seen at other NHS facilities, but no central records are held and accurate information could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, on average, the total number of military in-patients in NHS hospitals across the UK is, typically, about 60 to 75 for all illnesses and injuries, however sustained.

The MOD does not normally use the NHS for treatment of psychological injuries. Military patients suffering from psychological injuries are treated either by mental health professionals deployed in theatre or at one of 15 MOD Military Departments of Community Mental Health or, for those requiring in-patient treatment, at private facilities under contract from the Priory Group.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what location the 500 British armed forces logistics personnel mentioned in the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-38, will be stationed. [157148]

Des Browne: I have nothing to add to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in response to the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 27.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role Gila Sacks holds in his Department. [153381]

Edward Miliband: Gila Sacks is a permanent civil servant.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds: Smuggling

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when officials in his Department last discussed measures to prevent the illegal importation of wild birds into the EU with the relevant European agency. [156832]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* DEFRA officials hold regular discussions, on this and a range of other issues, with colleagues in the EU.

Eggs: EC Action

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* European counterparts and *(b)* UK egg producers on the 1999 EU Laying Hens Directive. [156831]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* DEFRA officials hold regular discussions, on this and a range of other issues, with stakeholders and colleagues in the EU.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to exercise his powers pursuant to section 4(3) of the Sustainable Energy Act 2003 to give an energy efficiency direction to some or all of the energy conservation authorities that have achieved energy efficiency improvements in their domestic housing stock of less than 20 per cent. for the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [154082]

Mr. Woolas: Government policy to support and incentivise increased local authority action on climate change is outlined in the 2006 UK Climate Change Programme and the 2006 Local Government White Paper. In addition, the Government have undertaken a review of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) to assess its success in delivering improvements in energy efficiency in the household sector over the last 10 years. DEFRA has published its review and is seeking the views of stakeholders on its findings and options for the future of the HECA.

Paper: Waste Disposal

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his timetable is for issuing guidance to local authorities with regard to strategies for dealing with waste paper. [155746]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's "Waste Strategy for England 2007" set a new national target for reducing the amount of household waste not reused, recycled or composted, and increased national targets for the percentage of household waste recycled and composted. It also set a target for the amount of municipal waste recovered.

Local authorities also have limits on the amount of biodegradable municipal waste, including waste paper, that they may collectively landfill.

The Waste and Resources and Action Programme (WRAP) works closely with local authorities to provide advice on recycling practice, including paper and other recyclates.

In addition, the British Standards Institution, working jointly with WRAP, the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee, the Confederation of Paper Industries, and the Environmental Services Association, has created a Publicly Available Specification (BSI PAS 105) entitled "Recovered Paper

Sourcing and Quality for UK End Markets". Published in July 2007, this is designed to boost the market for recovered paper by improving standards of production, and increasing confidence and understanding between local authorities, reprocessors, and potential end users.

A copy of BSI PAS 105 has been sent to every local authority in the UK. It will also be placed in the Library of the House.

Pirbright Laboratory: Inspections

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times the Institute for Animal Health sites at Pirbright and Compton were inspected in each of the last five years; who carried out these inspections; what results and recommendations were made following each of these visits; and whether either of the sites has suffered flooding which resulted in the deliberate or accidental release of hazardous waste during that period. [156932]

Jonathan Shaw: During the last five years, the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) in Pirbright was inspected by DEFRA in November 2003, August 2004, September 2005 and December 2006. Inspections were carried out by senior DEFRA veterinarians with specialist knowledge of laboratory containment, exotic animal diseases and the requirements for licensing laboratories under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998. The inspections were designed to provide an overview of general biosecurity, and to focus on new or refurbished areas, particular areas where changes are proposed or areas where particular biosecurity issues had been identified. Where any particular biosecurity issues were identified, the laboratory was required to submit action plans addressing the issues identified and, once they were agreed, implement them. These action plans addressed minor issues including management and personnel, site security, ventilation, waste handling, storage of pathogens and documentation. The progress of these plans was closely monitored. No major biosecurity issues were identified during the inspections.

At IAH Compton, DEFRA works with other enforcement authorities and liaison with these authorities ensures that DEFRA is aware of any significant issues. We are aware that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has undertaken two inspections at IAH Compton this year, one of which resulted in an improvement notice for the ventilation system. Reports from inspections at Compton, undertaken by DEFRA during the last five years, are not held centrally. I have asked officials to gather the information and I will write to the hon. Member when it is available. I will also arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

DEFRA was not notified of any issues in relation to flooding at either site which resulted in the deliberate or accidental release of hazardous waste. A HSE-led investigation into potential breaches of biosecurity at Pirbright following the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Surrey, included an assessment of the potential role of flooding in the release of the live virus. This report is available from the DEFRA website and the Libraries of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

African Union: EU External Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1464W, on African Union: EU external relations, when invitations will be issued to the EU-AU Summit in Portugal; and what UK Government policy is on the attendance will be issued of the President of Zimbabwe. [155370]

David Miliband *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The EU Presidency has not yet confirmed when invitations to the EU-Africa Summit will be issued.

Our policy on the attendance of President Mugabe has been made clear to the Presidency and to our European and African partners. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has publicly stated that he will not attend the summit if President Mugabe goes. We believe the EU-Africa summit can and should deliver progress on peace and security, growth, development, governance, climate change and the Millennium Development Goals. If President Mugabe were to attend, his presence would overshadow the summit, undermining the substantive business and dominating the media profile of the event. We are working with the Presidency and African partners to find an alternative solution.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average annual cost falling on UK funds has been of running the Governor's residence in each overseas territory over the last five years; how much of each figure was accounted for by *(a)* rent, *(b)* other running costs, *(c)* staffing and *(d)* entertainment and hospitality; and if he will make a statement. [155810]

Meg Munn: It is the responsibility of overseas territories Governments to provide and maintain accommodation for Governors. However, depending on local circumstances, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays for some maintenance and other costs, e.g. FCO required security enhancements. The approximate average annual running costs falling to the FCO for governors' residences in each territory are listed in the following table:

£

Territory	*Rent*	*Other running costs*	*Staffing*	*Entertainment and hospitality*
Anguilla	0	31,557	6,000	14,610
Bermuda	0	0	0	0
British Virgin Islands	0	23,500	11,833	19,390
Cayman Islands	0	0	0	0
Falkland Islands	0	6,400	1,000	25,036
Gibraltar	0	211,500	300,000	22,000
Montserrat	0	31,571	5,710	29,861
Pitcairn Island (Governor resides in Wellington)	0	0	0	0
St. Helena	0	0	0	0

Territory	Rent	Other running costs	Staffing	£ Entertainment and hospitality
Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0	0	37,951

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the human rights conventions with which each UK overseas territory is expected to comply. [155815]

Meg Munn: The UK's objective is to see the six core UN Human Rights Conventions and the European Convention on Human Rights extended to the populated Overseas Territories (OTs) We recognise that in some cases OTs have to implement or amend legislation before the extension of some of these Conventions can take place, which takes time. But it is important that the OTs are able to comply with the obligations under the relevant Human Rights Conventions once they have been extended to them. Listed in the table are the conventions and the Territories they apply to so far.

Treaty	Anguilla	Bermuda	British Virgin Islands	Cayman Islands	Gibraltar
International Convention on Civil and Political Rights	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention Against Torture	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	—	—	Yes	—	—
Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
European Convention on Human Rights[1]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Treaty	Falkland Islands	Montserrat	St. Helena	Pitcairn	Turks and Caicos Islands
International Convention on Civil and Political Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention Against Torture	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
European Convention on Human Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	Yes

[1] The right of individual petition under the European Convention on Human Rights was accepted on a permanent basis for the following Territories from 14 January 2006: Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and was renewed for a period of five years from 14 January 2006 for: Anguilla, Bermuda, Montserrat, St. Helena, and St. Helena Dependencies. It was accepted for a period of five years from 14 January 2006 for the Turks and Caicos Islands, and on a permanent basis for the Cayman Islands from 21 February 2006.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Primates

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the fate of rare mountain gorillas in the Virunga National Park. [156725]

Meg Munn: Officials from our Embassy in Kinshasa lobbied the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Government in August on their duty and international obligations to protect all their wildlife., including mountain gorillas. We have also reminded the DRC authorities that wildlife populations bring sustainable development and economic benefits, especially for establishing a viable tourist industry. My hon. Friend the then Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the hon. Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight) lobbied the Congolese Minister of the Environment on the need to protect vulnerable species during his visit to DRC in 2005.

We are urging the DRC Government to do more to control the activities of the militia groups that are reportedly killing wild animals including gorillas in eastern DRC. We will continue to monitor the situation and raise with the DRC Government their duty to protect all forms of wildlife.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153049]

Meg Munn: During the last 12 months £8,834,098 was spent by the human resources directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on staff training. These are direct training costs only.

Policy and technical training provided by other FCO Directorates, individual home departments and overseas posts has not been included because collating this information would incur disproportionate cost.

During the last 12 months £222,594 was spent by the human resources directorate on written and oral communications training.

This figure does not include media, press and public affairs training, for which a budget of £225,000 has been allocated for this financial year (FY) and approximately £200,000 was spent in FY 2006-07. Nor does it include training provided by individual overseas posts or home departments and directorates because collating this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Diego Garcia: Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government took in assessing the assurances of the US authorities over the non-use of Diego Garcia for the rendition of detainees suspected of involvement in terrorism, with reference to the answer of 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2076W, on British Indian Ocean Territory; what contribution the UK made to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights reports on secret detentions and illegal transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states; what steps the Government took to ascertain whether the *(a)* processing and *(b)* other administration relating to the rendition of detainees had been undertaken on Diego Garcia by US agencies; and if he will make a statement. [157081]

Meg Munn: Under the 1966 Exchange of Notes between the US and UK, of non-US and non-UK nationals who are not serving members of the US military cannot be detained without notification to the Government.

There is no US facility for foreign detainees on Diego Garcia. The only civilian detention centre is at the small UK-run police station.

The US authorities have repeatedly given us assurances that no detainees, prisoners of war or any other persons in this category are being held on Diego Garcia, or have at any time passed in transit through Diego Garcia or its territorial waters or airspace. This was most recently confirmed during the 2007 US/UK Political Military Talks held in Washington on 11 and 13 September.

The Government co-operated fully with the Council of Europe's inquiry last year, together with an inquiry on similar issues by the European Parliament. At that time the Government explained that we had carried out extensive searches of official records and found no evidence of detainees being rendered through the UK, or Overseas Territories, since 1997, where there were substantial grounds to believe there was a real risk of torture.

EU Reform Treaty

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ensure that the Bill to give effect to the terms of the European Treaty will be drafted in such a way as to ensure that amendments requiring a referendum to be held before the enactment of the Bill are within the scope of the Bill. [157217]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to him during Foreign and Commonwealth Office oral questions on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 159.

European Commission: Information Officers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many press officers are employed by the European Commission. [154123]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the information requested.

Further information may be available by contacting the European Commission's Representation in the UK at the following address:

European Commission Representation in the UK
8 Storey's Gate
London
SW1P 3AT

Malawi: Politics and Government

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what selection procedure was used to select the next High Commissioner to Malawi; and if he will make a statement. [156331]

Meg Munn: The right hon. Jack McConnell's appointment by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister as the next high commissioner to Malawi is in line with the Government's policy of recruiting appropriate skills and experience from all areas of public life. His experience and skills make him well qualified for the job.

There have been a number of such appointments made by successive Governments.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer the letter of 6 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. M. K. J. Iqbal. [156908]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's ministerial support unit telephoned my right hon. Friend's office at the House on 20 August to request that his letter of 6 August be sent again, as the enclosures referred to in this letter were missing. A further letter was not received.

Officials from UKvisas subsequently telephoned my right hon. Friend's office on 9 October to confirm that Mr. M. K. J. Iqbal's wife had successfully appealed

against her refused visa application, which was overturned on 20 September. It was agreed that a written reply would not be necessary.

Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what official visits are planned for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to countries where Her Majesty the Queen is Head of State in the next 12 months; what estimated proportion of the costs of each visit will be met from *(a)* United Kingdom funds and *(b)* host country funds; and if he will make a statement; [156850]

(2) what official visits are planned for Her Majesty the Queen to countries where Her Majesty is Head of State in the next 12 months; what estimated proportion of the costs of each visit will be met from *(a)* United Kingdom funds and *(b)* host country funds; and if he will make a statement. [156851]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It is not the practice to announce royal visits until they are firm and all parties concerned have agreed that they can proceed.

HEALTH

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of primary care trusts participated in the chlamydia screening programme in the most recent period for which figures are available; which primary care trusts are not participating in the programme; and if he will make a statement. [156810]

Dawn Primarolo: As of 30 June 2007, the screening programme has been successfully rolled out to 64 per cent. of primary care trusts (PCTs). The vast majority of the remaining PCTs have active plans in place and have started recruiting staff to begin screening by the end of December 2007. At the end of June, the PCTs that have not indicated a start date to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) are given in the following list.

List of PCTs where plans to commence screening by the end of December 2007 have not been submitted to the HPA.

Devon
Havering
Hillingdon
Sandwell

Source:

National Chlamydia Screening programme as of 30 June 2007.

Doctors: Career Structure

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the *(a)* Library, *(b)* Vote Office and *(c)* post to the hon. Member for Worthing, West the full report, including annexes and appendices, of the 12 July final report of the Douglas review on doctors' training posts and modernising medical careers. [157218]

Ann Keen: The report of the Douglas review on modernising medical careers including annexes and appendices was placed in the Library on 6 August. A copy was posted to the hon. Member for Worthing, West on 10 October 2007.

Further copies can be made available to hon. Members via the vote office.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 12 hospitals took part in the internal departmental report on overseas visitors completed in April 2005. [154972]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The national health service bodies that took part in the project which resulted in the internal report in question did so on the understanding that the document was an informal piece of work for the Department, and that their anonymity would be guaranteed. Several of the NHS trusts involved have specifically asked for that anonymity to be maintained. That being the case, it would be inappropriate to release details of any of the NHS bodies involved.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he has put in place to ensure NHS ambulance trusts can decontaminate their ambulances in the event of an influenza pandemic. [156777]

Dawn Primarolo: Standard infection control procedures are in place that follow current Ambulance Service Association guidelines for decontaminating ambulances, with stringent cleaning procedures between patients, such as washing and wiping down areas and surfaces within the ambulance that have been in contact with the patient with detergent or alcohol spray. Single-use equipment and clinical waste would be disposed of in accordance with current procedures.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his Department's press release of 16 August 2007 entitled "Government announces advanced supply contracts for pandemic influenza vaccine", how many doses of pandemic vaccine have been secured as part of the advanced supply contracts; and in which country the pandemic vaccines will be manufactured in the event of an influenza pandemic. [156781]

Dawn Primarolo: As announced by the Department on 16 August 2007, advanced supply contracts have been put in place with two companies, Baxter Healthcare and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). The contracts allow the United Kingdom to purchase up to 120 million doses of pandemic specific vaccine should a pandemic occur. The exact number of doses will be determined by the strength of the virus and its impact on the population, which will only be known once the virus has emerged. Pandemic specific vaccines will be manufactured at Baxter Healthcare's facilities in Austria and the Czech Republic, and at GSK's site in Germany.

Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1332W, on influenza: disease control, on what date he plans to publish the national framework. [156748]

Dawn Primarolo: The national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic and the supporting guidance are due to be published in the autumn.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to Andre Menache's letters to her Department of 3 August and 23 August on the proposed experiments on the macaque monkey Felix at Oxford University. [156408]

Meg Hillier: A reply was sent to Mr. Menache by email on 19 September 2007.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons *(a)* the number of scientific procedures on living animals in 2006 recorded as being for the purpose of food additives rose by 368.4 per cent. on the previous year and *(b)* the number of procedures recorded as being for the purpose of other foodstuffs rose by 30.2 per cent. on the previous year; and if she will make a statement. [156409]

Meg Hillier: In 2005 the food additives tested were flavourings, colorants and plant extracts. In 2006 they included dietary supplements, stabilisers, sweeteners, colorants and flavouring agents. All of the work in both years was conducted to fulfil regulatory requirements. Changes from year to year depend on the requirements of industry and the regulators concerned with the safety of the products. All the "other foodstuff" testing in 2005 and 2006 was conducted to fulfil regulatory safety requirements mainly for marine biotoxins testing. Part of the increase in procedures in 2006 involved validation of a non-animal alternative for pre-screening for marine biotoxins testing as a result of which it is likely that live animal use for these purposes will begin to fall in 2007.

Domestic Violence: Entry Clearances

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain on the grounds of domestic violence have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected since the introduction of the domestic violence rule. [156818]

Mr. Byrne: Indefinite leave to remain (ILR) on the grounds of domestic violence (DV) was brought within the rules on 18 December 2002. During the period 18 December 2002 to 30 September 2007 1,043[1] applications were granted and 2,101[1] refused.

Data are provisional management information (MI) produced by the Border and Immigration Agency. They are not National Statistics.

[1] Data do not include dependants.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was for the final determination of immigration cases involving domestic violence at the most recent date for which figures are available. [156819]

Mr. Byrne: The average time for determination of applications for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) on the grounds of domestic violence (DV), decided between 18 December 2002 and 30 September 2007, was 61 days. This is provisional management information (MI) produced by the Border and Immigration Agency. It is not a National Statistic.

Emergency Calls

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the centralised emergency services number 999 following the impact of the recent week's events on the number of calls; and if she will make a statement. [153572]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Operational issues relating to the 999 service fall to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Officials from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform played an active role in the response by the Telecoms industry to the flooding during the summer. I followed the situation closely and met representatives of the telecommunications industry and some of the businesses affected by the floods. One of the key objectives of the telecoms industry response was to maintain the 999 service and the availability of the service to the public was not seriously affected by the conditions. The situation did lead to increased demand on the service and the emergency services were pressed in handling this increased number of calls.

Foreign Workers: Romania

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she next plans to assess revising restrictions on workers from Romania and Bulgaria wishing to work in the United Kingdom. [155838]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are carrying out a stock-take of the restrictions on workers from Romania and Bulgaria, and have committed themselves to making an announcement within 12 months of their coming into effect.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been added to the National DNA Database in each month since its inception, broken down by *(a)* category of offence and *(b)* stage reached in the criminal justice system; and if she will make a statement. [156284]

Meg Hillier: The number of profiles relating to individuals added to the database each month for all police forces since its foundation in 1995 is shown in the following table.

A certain number of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). At present the replication rate is 13.7 per cent., i.e. the number of people whose details are loaded is 13.7 per cent. fewer than the number of profiles. However, as the replication rate has varied over time, an exact figure for the number of people who have been added to the database in each month since 1995 cannot be given.

The National DNA Database records the DNA profile for a particular individual. It does not hold data on arrest and criminal records. This information is held on the Police National Computer. To produce figures for the category of offence in relation to which the DNA sample was taken would require cross-searching of PNC and the NDNAD, which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

For the same reason, it is not possible to give precise figures for the stage in the criminal justice system at which someone had a DNA sample taken. However, under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, the police have the power to take DNA and fingerprints from anyone arrested for a recordable offence and detained in a police station, and retain them indefinitely; and taking a DNA sample is now a normal part of handling of arrested persons in the custody suite. So it is expected that in most cases the sample would have been taken when the person was being dealt with in the custody suite after arrest.

Profiles loaded	*Subject*
1995-96	
April	0
May	148
June	3,205
July	1,872
August	1,057
September	635
October	4,035
November	3,551
December	2,196
January	5,752
February	6,257
March	4,899
Total	33,607
1996-97	
April	4,433
May	5,482
June	4,641
July	5,370
August	4,075
September	6,426
October	8,398
November	8,939
December	5,334
January	9,316
February	9,554
March	8,470
Total	80,438
1997-98	
April	7,740
May	10,310
June	10,444
July	11,692
August	9,491
September	10,570
October	10,698
November	10,617
December	9,017
January	9,175
February	11,208
March	18,819
Total	129,781
1998-99	
April	14,272
May	13,428
June	12,527
July	15,021
August	18,339
September	23,747
October	24,676
November	23,032
December	24,609
January	35,772
February	28,752
March	22,255
Total	256,430
1999-2000	
April	15,754
May	18,380
June	15,057
July	16,400
August	17,343
September	15,662
October	17,510
November	16,976
December	12,680
January	18,698
February	25,161
March	30,108
Total	219,729
2000-01	
April	19,857
May	25,579
June	30,168
July	32,212
August	34,682
September	34,115
October	35,125
November	34,626
December	28,393
January	37,699

Profiles loaded	*Subject*
February	37,785
March	46,319
Total	396,560
2001-02	
April	34,632
May	30,051
June	34,128
July	35,774
August	34,320
September	42,856
October	49,164
November	50,217
December	44,651
January	55,046
February	53,328
March	39,829
Total	503,996
2002-03	
April	42,149
May	51,857
June	33,909
July	44,801
August	42,251
September	38,847
October	39,792
November	38,055
December	35,536
January	40,086
February	35,039
March	46,197
Total	488,519
2003-04	
April	33,322
May	38,871
June	37,856
July	45,359
August	38,375
September	36,603
October	38,108
November	35,069
December	33,149
January	39,335
February	42,220
March	57,030
Total	475,297
2004-05	
April	36,877
May	32,507
June	42,825
July	43,291
August	49,153
September	31,832
October	48,573
November	49,035
December	48,064
January	44,039
February	45,926
March	48,996
Total	521,118
2005-06	
April	50,577
May	52,704
June	53,404
July	50,578
August	54,437
September	64,118
October	61,915
November	67,869
December	55,152
January	63,246
February	70,878
March	70,267
Total	715,145
2006-07	
April	49,407
May	70,413
June	55,778
July	66,370
August	78,647
September	64,478
October	59,470
November	63,636
December	48,701
January	55,135
February	54,461
March	55,968
Total	722,464
207-08	
April	50,077
May	54,718
June	49,701
July	55,273
August	49,025
September	48,632
Total	307,426

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many samples were added to the National DNA Database in each month since it was launched; and if she will make a statement. [156285]

Meg Hillier: It is understood that this question refers to the number of samples taken from crime scenes added to the National DNA Database, since a separate question has been asked on the number of people added. The number of crime scene samples added each month for all police forces since the foundation of the Database in 1995 is shown in the attached table. Crime scene samples are not normally retained on the Database once the crime from which they were taken has been solved. Therefore the number of such samples currently on the database is less than the total number that have been loaded since 1995.

Profiles loaded	*Scene*
1995-96	
April	0
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	74
September	102
October	226
November	131
December	188
January	173
February	410
March	628
Total	1,932
1996-97	
April	673
May	583
June	421
July	198
August	60
September	91
October	244
November	455
December	444
January	543
February	435
March	1,046
Total	5,193
1997-98	
April	1,236
May	908
June	1257
July	1,449
August	1,327
September	1,545
October	1,019
November	600
December	922
January	818
February	1,022
March	1,067
Total[1]	1,3170
1998-99	
April	715
May	642
June	823
July	763
August	958
September	1,396
October	1,153
November	1,376
December	1,621
January	1,342
February	1,339
March	1,359
Total	1,3487

Profiles loaded	*Scene*
1999-2000	
April	731
May	984
June	1331
July	1390
August	1478
September	1961
October	1596
November	1795
December	1394
January	1597
February	2056
March	2038
Total	18351
2000-01	
April	1,659
May	2,005
June	2,317
July	2,316
August	2,612
September	2,589
October	2,391
November	2,601
December	2,264
January	2,562
February	2,587
March	3,105
Total	29,008
2001-02	
April	2,480
May	2,723
June	2,887
July	2,871
August	3,123
September	3,223
October	3,534
November	4,094
December	3,327
January	3,836
February	3,841
March	5,280
Total	41,219
2002-03	
April	4294
May	5501
June	4139
July	6144
August	4476
September	4263
October	5465
November	6245
December	4910
January	5121
February	4988
March	5885
Total	61431

Profiles loaded	Scene
2003-04	
April	4,793
May	4,840
June	5,449
July	5,327
August	4,365
September	5,437
October	5,664
November	4,127
December	4,401
January	4,827
February	5,210
March	5,786
Total	6,0226
2004-05	
April	4,673
May	4,492
June	5,290
July	4,821
August	4,509
September	4,478
October	4,931
November	4,921
December	4,762
January	5,286
February	5,442
March	5,642
Total	59,247
2005-06	
April	5,217
May	1,0719
June	6,884
July	5,097
August	5,153
September	5,646
October	5,173
November	5,309
December	3,965
January	5,481
February	4,966
March	5,164
Total	68,774
2006-07	
April	4,637
May	4,926
June	4,793
July	4,871
August	4,663
September	4,647
October	4,716
November	4,503
December	3,715
January	4,756
February	4,407
March	4,583
Total	55,217
2007	
April	4,643
May	4,430
June	4,325
July	4,282
August	4,388
September	4,256
Total	2,6324

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether DNA records of citizens who have not been convicted of a crime are accessible to all police forces nationally; and if she will make a statement. [156640]

Meg Hillier: A non-convicted individual's DNA record will be accessed by the police only if it matches a record subsequently loaded from a crime scene or another individual.

The purpose of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is to hold a record of a person's DNA which can be matched against DNA taken from crime scenes. The database can also match DNA taken from different crime scenes. The police do not have direct access to the records on the database, and receive reports on people on it only if their DNA matches DNA from a crime scene. This is true both for those convicted of a crime and those not convicted. Matches between two apparently different individuals may also occur. The usual reason is that a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests).

There may be an innocent explanation for someone's presence at a crime scene, so a match report is simply a piece of intelligence leading to further inquiries. If a match between DNA from a crime scene and DNA from an individual is found, a report of the match is sent to the police forces which loaded the crime scene data and the individual data, to make further inquiries.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA files are kept on citizens who have not been charged with the offence for which they were apprehended. [156642]

Meg Hillier: The national DNA database (NDNAD) records the DNA profile for a particular individual. It does not hold data on arrest and criminal records. This information is held on the police national computer (PNC). Obtaining the information sought would require cross searching of records held on the PNC against the NDNAD, which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Imports: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 766W, on imports: primates, whether the Nafovanny Breeding Centre in Vietnam has been accepted as a source of non-human primates for the UK for a further two-year period; and if she will make a statement. [156254]

Meg Hillier: Nafovanny is currently acceptable to the Home Office as a source of non-human primates for use in regulated procedures in the UK. The acceptance is valid until 31 August 2008. All overseas breeding centres wishing to supply non-human primates to the UK for scientific use are subject to periodic review and visits by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate to ensure that standards of animal care and accommodation meet acceptable standards.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many primates were imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research from each other EU member state in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [156410]

Meg Hillier: Details of non-human primates acquired from EU member states for use by designated establishments licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2005 and 2006 are shown in the following table. Authority to import animals is granted by DEFRA.

Source	*2005*	*2006*
Germany	36	0
France	37	0
Netherlands	14	92
All other member states	0	0
Totals	87	92

Personation

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the incidence of identity theft. [156886]

Meg Hillier: Identity theft and the fraudulent use of identity details is an extremely serious issue, and in 2003, we set up a public-private sector work programme to tackle all aspects of this problem.

Since this time, we have strengthened legislation and introduced tougher criminal penalties, provided more powers to share data to combat fraud, sought to ensure better co-ordination in prosecuting fraudsters, and worked extensively to raise public awareness of this issue. Our plans for a National Identity Scheme will provide people with a highly secure means of protecting their identity and help citizens to prove their identities easily, quickly, simply and with vastly improved security.

The range of activities that we are undertaking are vital if we are to protect ourselves from the misuse of identity through organised crime, illegal immigration and working, and fraudulent access to public services.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times police armed response units were deployed in each police force area in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; and how many and what percentage of those incidents resulted in a police officer discharging their weapon. [156482]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available centrally in the form requested. The number of police operations in which firearms were authorised to be used in each force area in the last 10 years, and the overall number of incidents where a conventional firearm was used, are shown in the following tables.

Number of operations in which firearms were authorised

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Total	12,379	11,842	10,928	10,915	11,109	13,991	14,827	16,657	15,981	18,891
Avon and Somerset	312	139	88	90	65	195	262	311	333	247
Bedfordshire	345	323	260	190	204	237	301	442	475	575
Cambridgeshire	54	96	43	75	71	114	57	104	241	201
Cheshire	288	216	299	386	545	419	451	397	358	367
Cleveland	1,026	103	35	76	28	37	170	453	530	657
City of London	308	307	147	125	3	40	131	364	404	323
Cumbria	72	68	52	24	30	71	77	72	152	112
Derbyshire	109	147	176	178	167	275	401	369	287	305
Devon and Cornwall	160	133	61	65	151	101	96	112	71	84
Dorset	36	54	69	79	174	184	193	231	223	263
Durham	131	103	114	114	40	89	83	156	144	291
Essex	331	505	590	497	435	323	312	275	296	432
Gloucestershire	41	51	52	52	48	165	185	127	176	229
Greater Manchester	214	165	160	224	357	580	518	507	461	478
Hampshire	245	217	129	103	114	198	162	208	237	289
Hertfordshire	96	82	75	73	86	112	172	195	185	187
Humberside	291	472	317	193	158	297	187	183	206	362
Kent	236	423	92	85	83	115	137	207	163	219
Lancashire	333	338	616	267	242	232	238	318	241	240
Leicestershire	155	89	109	222	217	300	268	295	260	363
Lincolnshire	58	52	57	155	336	477	392	386	294	220
Merseyside	671	675	484	489	825	1,020	628	751	733	669
Metropolitan	2,439	2,578	2,742	2,862	1,862	2,447	3,199	3,563	2,964	4,711
Norfolk	166	128	185	239	226	175	200	178	195	175

Number of operations in which firearms were authorised

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Northamptonshire	64	77	51	57	58	43	138	148	158	137
Northumbria	1,360	823	683	465	708	1,440	1,275	1,140	977	611
North Yorkshire	65	102	69	612	72	92	100	147	185	183
Nottinghamshire	84	306	266	255	233	384	452	459	408	394
South Yorkshire	155	302	135	237	127	258	463	484	546	749
Staffordshire	257	240	209	174	203	232	281	255	216	171
Suffolk	180	193	174	165	176	163	270	251	153	202
Surrey	133	87	60	143	221	245	247	203	151	222
Sussex	235	330	123	185	353	248	204	280	187	190
Thames Valley	215	227	158	110	153	179	167	195	289	427
Warwickshire	97	152	291	194	233	130	149	164	124	180
West Mercia	106	132	130	110	36	117	91	197	162	122
West Midlands	270	227	305	362	485	822	902	1,377	1,264	1,044
West Yorkshire	617	630	662	813	822	757	604	575	853	1,335
Wiltshire	26	26	24	19	66	45	58	63	88	139
Dyfed Powys	17	27	38	37	18	28	29	28	51	63
Gwent	89	86	64	39	30	20	37	40	81	94
North Wales	233	310	386	371	195	302	259	197	223	350
South Wales	59	101	148	255	363	283	281	250	236	279

Number of incidents where conventional firearms were used

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Incidents	5	3	5	7	9	11	10	4	5	9
Percentage of incidents compared with number of authorised operations	0.040	0.025	0.046	0.064	0.0 81	0.079	0.067	0.024	0.031	0.048

Work Permits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many farm workers from abroad overstayed their work permit in each of the last three years. [156531]

Mr. Byrne: Since the dismantling of embarkation controls no Government of the United Kingdom have been able to say with accuracy how many irregular migrants are present in the country, and this remains the case.

On 7 March 2007 the Border and Immigration Agency published its enforcement strategy "Enforcing the Rules". This strategy sets out how the Border and Immigration Agency intends to make it increasingly difficult for individuals to continue to reside in the UK when they have no lawful basis to do so. Copies of the document are in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/enforcementstrategy.pdf

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Constituencies: Telephones

Stephen Williams: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many constituency office telephone accounts are settled by the Fees Office; and what estimate the Commission has made of the potential costs of the imposition of a £4.50 non-direct debit charge per account by BT. [156488]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

Members have a choice whether to ask the Department of Finance and Administration to settle constituency telephone accounts, including those for BT, or to pay them direct and reclaim the expenditure. In 2006-07 some 365 hon. Members had one or more accounts settled by the Department of Finance and Administration each of which would in future incur the new quarterly charge. On this basis the annual cost of the imposition of the charge of £4.50 is estimated to be approximately £20,000.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what contingency preparations the House authorities made for the possibility of a general election being held in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157051]

Nick Harvey: Following the 2005 general election, the House authorities put in place revised arrangements for any future election. In bringing these arrangements to a higher state of readiness for the possibility of an autumn election a number of planning and other meetings were held. The cost of these was the staff time involved. This was not recorded.

Expenditure was incurred on the following:

	£
Printing of revised dissolution arrangements	115
Bringing a guidebook for new Members of Parliament to a publication-ready state	4,500

It is planned to use both these documents at the next election whenever it occurs.

Coincidentally, in early October, the House authorities set up part of the temporary accommodation which is planned to be used by new Members immediately after an election. This activity had been scheduled for several months as a test of part of the post-election arrangements. The cost was £6,085.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo: Minerals

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what representations his Department has made to urge the Congolese Government to ensure that the current review process for mineral concessions and contracts in Democratic Republic of Congo is carried out effectively and transparently; [155670]

(2) what representations his Department has made to the Congolese Government in relation to the participation of civil society and parliament in the review process for mineral concessions and contracts in Democratic Republic of Congo. [155671]

Mr. Thomas: DFID and the FCO have raised concerns about the transparency of the review of mineral concessions with the relevant DRC authorities on numerous occasions. My colleague, Baroness Vadera, raised the mining review with the Vice-Minister of Mines during her recent visit to Kinshasa, and underlined the importance of transparency. We are not directly involved in the work of the DRC Government Commission which is undertaking the mining review, but fully recognise its importance for the future of the minerals sector. The review is vital for public confidence in DRC and investor confidence globally. While we believe that it is for the DRC Government to decide who should be involved in the review process, we will continue to use our channels with government, the private sector and civil society to push for the commission to carry out its work in the most transparent way possible.

Developing Countries

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's strategy is for *(a)* low-income countries and *(b)* middle-income countries. [155728]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) set out what the UK Government will do to reduce world poverty over the next five years in DFID's White Paper: Making governance work for the poor http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/ for both low income countries (LICs) and middle income countries (MICs).

DFID's commitment to MICs can be found in more detail in the middle income countries strategy 2005-2008

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/achievingmdgmidincome.pdf

Under DFID's public service agreement (PSA) 2005-2008 the Department planned to allocate 90 per cent. of its bilateral programme to LICs to support them in reaching the millennium development goals (MDGs). DFID is meeting its objective.

International Assistance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will ensure that his Department measures progress towards Millennium Development Goal 1 against malnutrition rates as well as income. [155920]

Mr. Malik: Progress on all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is measured annually by a set of indicators produced by the United Nations (UN). DFID draws on these data to monitor progress on all MDG targets and sub-targets, including progress on malnutrition rates.

JUSTICE

Burglary and Drugs: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of those convicted for burglary committed in Suffolk were given a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years; [156764]

(2) what proportion of those convicted for supplying illegal drugs in Suffolk were given a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years. [156765]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is in the following table. It relates to persons sentenced in Suffolk. However, it is not possible to say from statistics held centrally how many of the offences were committed in Suffolk.

2006 data will be available towards the end of the year.

Percentage of persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody for burglary and supplying illegal drugs[2] given immediate custody in Suffolk[3] 1995-2005

Percentage

	Offence					
	Burglary (residential and non-residential)			*Supplying illegal drugs[2]*		
	Total sentenced	*Total sentenced immediate custody*	*Proportion given immediate custody*	*Total sentenced*	*Total sentenced immediate custody*	*Proportion given immediate custody*
1995	350	95	27.1	28	11	39.3
1996	319	122	38.2	45	26	57.8
1997	310	119	38.4	27	17	63.0
1998	311	115	37.0	52	29	55.8

Percentage of persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody for burglary and supplying illegal drugs[2] given immediate custody in Suffolk[3] 1995-2005

Percentage

	Offence					
	Burglary (residential and non-residential)			*Supplying illegal drugs[2]*		
	Total sentenced	*Total sentenced immediate custody*	*Proportion given immediate custody*	*Total sentenced*	*Total sentenced immediate custody*	*Proportion given immediate custody*
1999	271	123	45.4	36	18	50.0
2000	239	111	46.4	30	15	50.0
2001	210	96	45.7	21	13	61.9
2002	235	89	37.9	14	4	28.6
2003	250	96	38.4	27	15	55.6
2004	260	88	33.8	47	38	80.9
2005	248	89	35.9	45	25	55.6

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Limited to the offence of supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug.
[3] Sentenced in Suffolk but offence not necessarily committed in Suffolk.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of buying new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices for new Ministers in his Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156744]

Bridget Prentice: If laptops are allocated to Ministers, they are usually from a central pool held within the Ministry's central IT Department, and are returned to the pool when no longer required for re-allocation.

There were no purchases of laptops, mobile telephones or personal digital assistant devices for new Ministers following the Cabinet reshuffle earlier this year. Information prior to the latest reshuffle is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* people (i) over the age of 60, (ii) over the age of 25 and (iii) under the age of 25 years, *(b)* men and *(c)* women holding a full UK driving licence were convicted of (A) speeding offences and (B) dangerous driving in (1) Jarrow constituency, (2) South Tyneside, (3) the north-east and (4) England and Wales in each year since 1997; [156037]

(2) how many people *(a)* over and *(b)* under the age of 25 who did not hold a full UK driving licence were convicted of dangerous driving offences in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [156662]

Maria Eagle: Information held centrally by my Department on convictions for motoring offences does not identify whether the offender held a UK or other driving licence (full or provisional). Possession of a licence can only be inferred through the nature of specific offences such as driving while disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence, or failing to produce a driving licence. Information is available at police force area level only.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers were given endorsements for driving while using a hand-held mobile phone for each month since the offence came into force. [156528]

Maria Eagle: New penalties for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving and for failing to have proper control of a vehicle came into effect on 27 February 2007.

2007 data will not be available until 2009.

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers were given endorsements for speeding offences in the last five years for which data are available. [156529]

Maria Eagle: Available information taken from the fixed penalty notices collection and the Court Proceedings Database held by my Department, from 2000 to 2004 (latest available), is provided in the following tables.

2005 data will be available later this year.

Table A: Fixed penalty notices issued[1], for speeding offences[2], 2000 to 2004: England and Wales

Thousand

	Fixed penalty notices issued
2000	989
2001	1,233
2002	1,505
2003	2,078
2004	1,924

[1] Endorsements on driving licences given out by the police (fixed penalty notices).
[2] Including speeding offences detected by camera.

Table B: Total endorsements[1] without disqualifications, on findings of guilt, imposed at all courts for speeding offences[2], 2000 to 2004: England and Wales

	Number of offences (Thousand)	
	Total findings of guilt	*Endorsements without disqualification*
2000	141	126
2001	136	116
2002	125	106
2003	140	119
2004	143	126

[1] Excludes penalty points given under section 35 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 (totting up system).
[2] Including speeding offences detected by camera.
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Driving: Licences

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers have lost their licences through disqualification under the penalty points system in the last five years for which data are available. [156530]

Maria Eagle: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by my Department, from 2000 to 2004 (latest available), is provided in the following table.

2005 data will be available later this year.

Persons disqualified[1] at all courts under section 35 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 (penalty points system), England and Wales, 2000-04

	Number of persons
2000	33,600
2001	30,100
2002	30,500
2003	33,300
2004	30,900

[1] Disqualifications under section 35 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Fixed Penalties: Cycling

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty orders were given nationwide to cyclists found cycling *(a)* on the pavement, *(b)* in the dark without lights and *(c)* through red traffic lights in (i) 2006, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2004. [156462]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of fixed penalty notices issued to cyclists found cycling *(a)* on the pavement, *(b)* in the dark without lights and *(c)* through red traffic lights is not held by my Department.

Immigration: Judges

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many part-time fee-paid immigration judges were appointed in each of the last two years; and how many days in total were sat by those persons in that time. [157056]

Bridget Prentice: In each calendar year since 2005, the number of fee-paid immigration judges appointed by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) and the total number of sitting days for those judges are in the following table.

	New fee paid judges appointed	*Sittings*
2005	0	n/a
2006	135	2468.5
2007	3	31

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Minister for Borders and Immigration will reply to the letter of 31 July from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham. [157083]

Mr. Hanson: The hon. Member's letter was transferred to my Department on 17 August, as I have ministerial responsibility for prisons. I wrote to the hon. Member on 10 October. I apologise for the delay.

Prison Accommodation: Cardiff

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent housing prisoners in facilities in Cardiff court buildings *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each month in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [156286]

Mr. Hanson: We have paid our contractors a total of £26,324.32 (excluding VAT) this year in respect of cells at Cardiff Crown court.

Costs for June and July were £22,814.41 and £3,509.91 respectively.

Prison Service: Strikes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether additional payments were made to prison staff who worked through the strike by prison officers in August 2007; and if he will make a statement. [156759]

Mr. Hanson: Additional payments were made to some prison staff who worked through the Prison Officers Association strike on 29 August 2007. These payments were made in line with the Prison Service

performance recognition scheme which allows managers to award a special bonus payment as an exceptional measure to give prompt and tangible recognition to staff who have given an outstanding performance.

Vehicle Number Plates

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for the use of cloned or false number plates there were in each of the last three years. [156321]

Maria Eagle: Information collected centrally on the Court Proceedings Database held by my Department does not separately identify offences involving the use or supply of fraudulent vehicle registration marks.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her office on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153019]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £242.20 on first class train travel in the last 12 months.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Leader of the House what the cost was of buying new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices for new departmental Ministers in her office following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [156741]

Helen Goodman: Following a Machinery of Government change, information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her office on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153020]

Helen Goodman: Following a Machinery of Government change, detailed information on expenditure incurred in the 2006-07 financial year is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Serials

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House to which periodicals her office subscribes. [153021]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons subscribes to *The New Statesman*, *The Spectator*, *Tribune*, *The Economist* and *Prospect*.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her office on taxis in the last 12 months. [153016]

Helen Goodman: Following a Machinery of Government change, detailed information on expenditure incurred in the 2006-07 financial year is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her office on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153023]

Helen Goodman: The office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £9,000 on training in the last 12 months. It is not possible to disaggregate this by subject.

Home Affairs Committee

Mr. Burns: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 920-1, on the work of the Home Affairs Committee, (1) what work programme was undertaken by the Home Affairs Committee during the summer recess; [157057]

(2) how much was paid to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee for the undertaking of that role between 26 July and 8 October. [157058]

Helen Goodman: The work programme for Select Committees of the House is a matter for the individual Committees. Information on the activities of each Committee is available from the Select Committee calendar and current inquiries list (available on the Parliament website) on individual Committee websites. For additional information the hon. Member should write to the Chairman of the Committee concerned.

The Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee was paid £2,749.68 (gross) during the period 26 July to 8 October.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Spring: To ask the Prime Minister whether Gila Sacks holds a position remunerated from the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [152724]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) today.

UK Youth Parliament

Mr. Drew: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with the UK Youth Parliament on its future programme. [151787]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

On 3 July 2007, the Prime Minister proposed inviting the UK Youth Parliament to meet in the Commons. As the Prime Minister said in his statement, this is principally a matter for the Speaker and my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House has been liaising with the Speaker on how best to take this forward.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many security alerts there have been at each commercial airport in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [156477]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK national aviation security programme states that airports, airlines, in-flight caterers and listed air cargo agents report to the Department for Transport any act of unlawful interference or occurrence that may affect the security of civil aviation within their spheres of operation. It would be inappropriate to comment on the number of security alerts at UK airports.

Cars

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment the Government have made of the top speeds of the most popular cars currently using British roads and of trends in the advertised top speeds of vehicles sold in the UK. [156555]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[pursuant to the reply, 8 October 2007, Official Report, c. 84W]:* I should like to make clear that it is the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre (BACC) that is responsible for the pre-transmission examination and clearance of television advertisements, and not the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

Crossrail Line: Finance

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the level of public spending needed to complete the Crossrail. [156559]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the White Paper for the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 9 October 2007.

Diesel: Pollution Control

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it a requirement for all vehicles using diesel to be fitted with diesel particulate filters; and if she will make a statement. [157783]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Construction standards for vehicles, including the standards that must be met for exhaust emissions, are set at a European Union level through negotiations in which the United Kingdom plays an active part.

New emission standards for cars and vans have just been agreed. These standards will force the adoption of particulate filters on new models of diesel cars and vans brought to the market from 2009, and on all newly registered diesel cars and vans by 2012.

A proposal from the European Commission for new, and stricter, exhaust emission standards for lorries and buses is expected towards the end of this year or in the early part of the next. These standards are expected to become mandatory for new vehicles from around 2012, and to tighten particulate emissions limits by around 70 per cent.

While the retrofitting of particulate filters on cars is seldom feasible, because it is precluded by space constraints and can require reprogramming the engine management system, the retrofitting of particulate filters to heavy duty vehicles is sometimes possible. The Government encourage retrofitting existing lorries and buses with technologies designed to reduce particulate emissions through the Reduced Pollution Certificate schemes. These schemes offer operators of heavy duty vehicles a reduction in Vehicle Excise Duty for vehicles modified to meet stricter emission standards.

Driving Tests: Standards

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what duty her Department has to report to the police or any other relevant authority if a driver assessed by the Driving Standards Agency's driver quality monitoring programme is judged to be unacceptable with serious faults or unacceptable with dangerous faults. [155923]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The driver quality monitoring assessment is not a driving test, but an assessment of the driver on behalf of the bus operator. If a driver commits a serious or dangerous fault this will be relayed to the bus operator, which will then follow its own internal procedures. The Driving Standards Agency does not have a duty to report this to the police or any other relevant authority.

Driving: Standards

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Driver Quality Monitoring (DQM) programme is; how DQM assessments are conducted on bus drivers; against what scoring system drivers are assessed; and how much DQM generated for the Driving Standards Agency in each financial year since 2000-01. [156060]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Driver Quality Monitoring (DQM) is a non-statutory service that the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) performs on behalf of bus companies. Assessors travel incognito on random bus routes and assess the ability of the driver over a 20-minute period. The Assessors then prepare a report for the relevant bus operator.

The scoring system on which the drivers are assessed is:

A four band score against 10 aspects of passenger consideration (supporting explanatory comments given)

A four band score against 13 aspects of driving ability (supporting explanatory comments given)

Box 1 = Fully acceptable,

Box 2 = Acceptable with some driving faults,

Box 3 = Unacceptable with serious faults,

Box 4 = Unacceptable with dangerous faults.

Nine safety comments (Such as handling cash in motion or talking to person while driving)

This is in addition to other aspects against which an operator may require feedback such as service frequency, uniform being worn.

DSA has received the income in the following table since 2003-04.

DSA had not recorded income before 2003-04.

	£
2000-01	n/a
2001-02	n/a
2002-03	n/a
2003-04	375,172.18
2004-05	355,119.42
2005-06	395,686.33
2006-07	416,804.76

n/a = not available

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many assessments on drivers were carried out as part of the Driver Quality Monitoring (DQM) programme in each financial year since 2000-01; and how many drivers were *(a)* assessed as unacceptable with serious faults and *(b)* assessed as unacceptable with dangerous faults in each year. [156061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of Driving Quality Monitoring assessments carried out by the Driving Standards Agency for the last seven years is shown in the table as follows.

	Number
2000-01	5,940
2001-02	6,411
2002-03	8,580
2003-04	9,338
2004-05	8,738
2005-06	9,059
2006-07	9,089

The number of drivers who committed serious faults on their DQM assessments is in the table as follows.

	Number
2000-01	2,345
2001-02	2,477
2002-03	3,662
2003-04	4,863
2004-05	3,983
2005-06	3,311
2006-07	2,783

The number of drivers who committed dangerous faults on their DQM assessments is in the table as follows.

	Number
2000-01	99
2001-02	171
2002-03	221
2003-04	225
2004-05	163
2005-06	136
2006-07	113

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies hired the Driver Standards Agency to conduct driver quality monitoring in each financial year since 2000-01 [156062]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of companies for which the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) conducts Driving Quality Monitoring is in the following table, split into financial years.

	£
2000-01	2
2001-02	2
2002-03	9
2003-04	12
2004-05	12
2005-06	9
2006-07	11

DSA cannot name the companies involved, owing to the nature of the contractual relationship.

Fishing Vessels: Safety

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has had with Irish Water Safety on the Irish experience of the impact of the introduction of compulsory personal flotation devices for fishing crews and some leisure sailors; and if she will make a statement. [156840]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has been monitoring the experience of the Irish Department of Transport Maritime Safety Directorate with interest and regular contact has taken place regarding the introduction of regulations requiring the wearing of personal flotation devices.

Research has also recently been undertaken by the MCA to assess the approach taken to the wearing of lifejackets adopted by other countries, and the effect on casualty statistics, and the MCA is currently reviewing the findings.

On a daily basis, the MCA reviews maritime leisure fatalities to assess whether the wearing or carrying of a lifejacket might have saved a life.

On the basis of this ongoing work, the National Water Safety Forum has recently approved an initiative by the MCA and in partnership with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the Royal Yachting Association and the British Marine Federation to investigate a three to five-year national lifejacket campaign.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas: Motor Vehicles

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of extending the rebate in graduated vehicle excise duty to otherwise-qualifying liquefied petroleum gas vehicles registered prior to March 2001; and if she will make a statement. [156838]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Based on the figure of licensed vehicles as at end June 2007, the estimated revenue cost of extending the alternative fuel rate of graduated vehicle excise duty to light private goods powered vehicles registered before 2001 and currently licensed would be between £400,000 and £550,000.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the environmental effects of encouraging the use of liquefied petroleum gas and other low emissions vehicles; and if she will make a statement. [156839]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Recent research undertaken by the Department suggests that, in comparison with petrol-powered equivalents, cars professionally retrofitted to run on liquefied petroleum gas may offer some advantage in terms of CO_2 emissions, but generally perform no better in terms of air quality emissions than the equivalent petrol vehicles. The findings of the research will be available on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk and copies will be available in the Library of the House.

M2

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to improve the design and safety of Exit 5 of the M2. [156933]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency currently has no plans to improve the design and safety of the M2 junction 5. A safety improvement scheme was carried out at this junction in 2005 and this has resulted in a fall in the accident rates at this location. However, the agency continues to monitor the situation.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average length is of queues during rush-hour on the westbound side of the M2 at exit 5 towards the Stockbury roundabout. [156934]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has no information on the length of traffic queues during rush hour on the westbound side of the M2 at Junction 5 towards the Stockbury roundabout.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will request that the Health and Safety Executive assess the safety of exit 5 on the M2. [156935]

Mr. Tom Harris: The safety of the strategic road network in England is the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 496W. Following investment in this junction between 2000 and 2005, safety improved and the junction is now a relatively low priority in safety terms. The Highways Agency continues to monitor the situation.

Motor Vehicles: Global Positioning System

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish on her departmental website a summary of the results of the public consultation on GPS in-vehicle information systems which closed in January 2007. [156812]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport intends to publish a summary of the results of the voluntary consultation on in-vehicle information systems by the end of the year. It will be available on the departmental website and copies will be sent to the Libraries of both Houses.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent estimate is of the number of vehicles which should have an MOT safety test but do not. [156054]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A national vehicle and driver compliance check undertaken by the police in 2006 showed that, of the vehicles stopped, 4.2 per cent. were without a valid MOT certificate. This equates to approximately 1 million vehicles which should have a valid MOT certificate, but do not. The report is published on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/vehicles/roadspolicingoperationv79/ and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Passenger Focus: Information Officers

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by Passenger Focus. [154465]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have been advised by Passenger Focus that it currently employs one press officer.

Railways: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with First Great Western on the service offered to passengers on 15 September 2007 on its service from Portsmouth Harbour to Cardiff; and if she will make a statement. [157258]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State for Transport has had no discussions with First Great Western on the service from Portsmouth to Cardiff on 15 September 2007.

Roads: Accidents

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hit-and-run accidents there were in *(a)* South Yorkshire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years; and how many accidents resulted in (i) injury and (ii) death. [157099]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one hit and run driver/rider in *(a)* South Yorkshire and *(b)* England in each of the past five years, for (i) serious or slight and (ii) fatal accidents is shown in the table.

Number of accidents

	South Yorkshire		*England*	
	Serious or slight	*Fatal*	*Serious or slight*	*Fatal*
2002	530	2	24,040	142
2003	600	3	24,065	130
2004	599	4	21,659	119
2005	569	1	20,289	138
2006	566	6	19,046	142

Transport: Costs

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimates she has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling using *(a)* domestic air services and *(b)* cross-country train services since 1997. [155730]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The change in the real cost of travelling by domestic air services since 1997 is not available.

Data are not available for cross-country rail services. However, in Table 5.1 of National Rail Trends (see weblink) published by the Office of Rail Regulation a breakdown of rail fares by type of operator is shown.

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/330-rev3.pdf

Transport: Livestock

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will set out the details of the relaxation of drivers hours restrictions for the transport of livestock, including the period for which the relaxation will apply, arising from the foot and mouth disease outbreak in Surrey. [157154]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The changes to the requirements of Regulation (EC) 561/2006 apply only to drivers who are wholly or mainly engaged in transporting cattle, pigs and sheep (including lambs) in connection with meeting the exceptional circumstances arising as a consequence of the foot and mouth outbreak.

They are

A daily driving limit of 10 hours (instead of the current nine hours);

A weekly rest period of 24 hours (instead of the current 45 hours);

No weekly or fortnightly driving time limits (currently 56 and 90 hours).

There is no change to the requirements for daily rest and breaks.

Drivers are also subject to the provisions of the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations 2005 which impose limits on total working time (the period when a driver is at work rather than just driving). These regulations impose a maximum weekly limit of 60 hours. To allow drivers to use the full amount of additional driving time allowed, the weekly working time limit is raised by 10 per cent. from 60 to 66 hours (the maximum permissible under EU legislation).

The relaxation will remain in place initially until 4 November, but the situation will be kept closely under review with the relaxation either being revoked sooner or extended if appropriate. The approval of the European Commission would be required for any extension. Industry will be informed at that time.

TREASURY

Northern Rock

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the terms on which he has engaged Goldman Sachs to advise him on Northern Rock. [155741]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: Goldman Sachs has been jointly engaged by HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority to advise on the implications of the announcement made on 17 September that, should it prove necessary, HM Treasury, with the Bank of England, would put in place arrangements to safeguard existing depositors of Northern Rock.

Smuggling: Boats

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the threat to the UK, of the smuggling of *(a)* firearms, *(b)* other items subject to an import prohibition, through uncanalised yacht and pleasure craft traffic; and if he will make a statement. [156566]

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the threat presented to the UK of smuggling firearms and other items subject to an import prohibition through uncanalised yacht and pleasure craft traffic. [156027]

Jane Kennedy: Yachts and pleasure craft represent a very small fraction of the vehicles entering and leaving the UK which HM Revenue and Customs deals with on a regular basis. HMRC assesses the threat posed by this form of transport as part of its overall approach to tackling smuggling.

HMRC is an intelligence-led organisation which works in partnership with other customs and law enforcement agencies, both within and outside the UK, to identify and tackle the threats posed, and deploys its resources accordingly.

Taxation: Tobacco

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much net revenue was raised through the sale of tobacco products in the last 12 months. [156769]

Angela Eagle: The details of tobacco excise duty revenue figures for recent years are published by HM Revenue and Customs in Table 3 of the Tobacco Bulletin which can be found on its website at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulltobacco

HMRC does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Mike Wood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals have been *(a)* lodged and *(b)* heard, broken down by outcome, in relation to the calculation of child and working tax credit entitlements. [155974]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the format requested. During the period April 2006 to the end of September 2007 around 60 tax credits appeals were lodged with the Appeals Service each month.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Domestic Violence

24. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the support available to victims of domestic violence; and if she will make a statement. [156864]

Barbara Follett: We have transformed the support available for the victims of domestic violence, which often has far-reaching effects not only for themselves but also their families, particularly children.

This includes £3 million to fund independent domestic violence advisers with a commitment to ongoing funding for services, £2 million to fund the local delivery of support services for victims and their children and £59 million for housing-related support through the Supporting People Programme.

However, as this is an abhorrent crime which can never be justified, we have undertaken the biggest overhaul in legislation in 30 years to protect victims and stamp it out. The Government are determined to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their action which is why we have increasing the number of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts from 25 to 64.

Freemen's Guilds

25. **David Taylor:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent estimate the Government have made of the proportion of women belonging to freemen's guilds in England; and if she will make a statement. [156865]

Barbara Follett: We have made no estimate of the proportion of women belonging to freemen's guilds in England. Such information is not held centrally. We are aware that some guilds do not feel that they can admit the daughters of freemen, given the terms of their charter or custom in the area. We agree that such ancient traditions should not be restricted to men and will bear this in mind should a suitable legislative opportunity become available.

Child Care

26. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the availability of child care for women seeking further and higher education. [156866]

Barbara Follett: The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities in England to assess child care in their areas by April 2008, and then to secure sufficient child care for working parents and those in education or training leading to work. These assessments will highlight demand for child care, including from student parents. I understand that the Welsh Assembly Government will bring the Childcare Act 2006 duties in Wales into force following the conclusion of their budget-setting process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Poverty

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the impact on child poverty of raising to 74.6 per cent. the employment rate for lone parents whose youngest child is aged 11 years or over. [155943]

Caroline Flint: The requested information is not available.

Comptroller and Auditor General: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to paragraph 14 of the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on the National Insurance Fund Account 2003-04 (HC 197, 2004-05), what criteria were used to determine which people over state pension age should receive letters from his Department; and how many were *(a)* men and *(b)* women. [156402]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: In the exercise that ran for 12 months from 27 September 2004 DWP wrote to pensioners who

reached state pension age between 6 April 1998 and 24 October 2004; and

were not receiving a full basic state pension in their own right, or not receiving a pension; and

had a deficient national insurance contribution record in any of the years between 1996-97 and 2001-02; and would have received a deficiency notice from HMRC.

The Department also wrote to

those customers living abroad who were also in the United Kingdom at the time and met the criteria above;

customers reaching state pension age between 6 April 2004 and 24 October 2004 who had a deficient national insurance contribution in their final relevant year tax year 2003-04 and 2002-03;

customers who had already paid voluntary class 3 national insurance contributions at either the standard rate or the higher rate and who were refunded the difference, and

customers who had paid voluntary class 3 national insurance contributions and did not have their state pension backdated to state pension age in line with the easements introduced with this exercise.

only those customers who could benefit from the payment of class 3 national insurance contributions were contacted.

The Department does not hold management information on the gender split of letters issued during this exercise.

Departments: Scotland

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what dates the Scotland forum of the regional change implementation programme executives has met; and if he will make a statement. [154180]

Caroline Flint: The following gives the meeting dates of this forum by year since 2004.

2004

6 July
26 August
30 November

2005

18 January
16 February
7 March
12 April
26 May
5 July
12 September
31 October

2006

17 January
12 April
17 May
5 July
14 August
5 October
5 December

2007

7 February
21 March
23 May
11 July

Employment: Foreigners

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of jobs created since 1997 which have been filled by immigrants, asylum seekers and foreign nationals who have arrived in the UK since 1997. [154368]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Labour Force Survey figures show that in 1997 there were 1.1 million foreign nationals in employment in the UK. In the intervening period over half (0.6 million) of these individuals have moved out of employment or have left the country, while 1.4 million foreign nationals are recorded as in employment having arrived in the UK. Accounting for these flows into and out of the UK, the total number of foreign nationals in employment in the year to the second quarter of 2007 is 1.9 million, a rise of 0.8 million since 1997. Data broken down for asylum seekers are not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons a general practitioner may not attend an appeal hearing with a client with respect to an application for incapacity benefits; and if he will make a statement. [155958]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Appeal hearings in respect of incapacity benefit decisions are heard by appeal tribunals which are constituted by the Lord Chancellor and are independent. The tribunal has an inquisitorial function and appellants we encouraged to attend and to present their case, which may include any written or oral evidence from those who may support their appeal such as medical practitioners. There is nothing in the tribunal rules that would exclude an appellant's general practitioner from attending such an appeal hearing.

Local Housing Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people expected to receive local housing allowance in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [156403]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The local housing allowance (LHA) will be rolled out nationally from 7 April 2008; it will apply to new claims and to those that have moved address. We estimate between 45 to 60 per cent. of housing benefit cases in the deregulated private rented sector will be on LHA for the period 2008-09. This would represent between 370,000 to 500,000 cases.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with local authorities on the provision of advice on the roll-out of the local housing allowance in 2008. [156404]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions has an extensive programme of support and advice to help local authorities with the introduction of the local housing allowance (LHA) in 2008.

The Department delivered 19 regional seminars for local authorities throughout summer 2007. A range of implementation and guidance products have already been made available to assist local authorities with specific activities, based largely on examples of good practice provided by LHA pathfinder authorities.

The Department will continue to provide communications, advice and support to local authorities in the run-up to the roll-out of the LHA in April 2008. This will include an LHA guidance manual and a training brief for local authority staff.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional financial resources will be made available to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* advice agencies for the provision of advice on the roll-out of the local housing allowance in 2008. [156405]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions has provided local authorities with £59 million to support the implementation of the local housing allowance (LHA).

This is intended to support the range of activities local authorities will need to undertake in order to implement the LHA effectively, including setting up appropriate structures to provide financial advice to their customers. This includes an element of funding for the provision of financial advice to customers and local authorities are free to choose how this funding is spent—including financing arrangements with advice agencies if they wish to do so.

National Insurance

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were in existence in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 tax years. [156442]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Information regarding the number of national insurance numbers in issue in Cambridgeshire is not available.

The available information regarding the number of national insurance numbers in issue in the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years is in the following table. This information is not available by tax year.

Total approximate number of national insurance numbers in issue at 31 December in each year between 1997 and 2006

	National insurance numbers in issue (million)
1997	66
1998	67
1999	68
2000	69
2001	70
2002	71
2003	72
2004	73
2005	76
2006	77

Notes:
1. In order to maintain the integrity of the system NINOs are not removed. For example, they are retained after a person dies or moves abroad.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 1 million.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the impact on pensioner poverty if take-up of council tax benefit were 100 per cent. [155942]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have made good progress in tackling pensioner poverty. Since 1997 the number of pensioners living in relative poverty, based on a threshold of 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs, has fallen by 1.1 million, from 2.9 million to 1.8 million in 2005-06.

Take-up of council tax benefit of 100 per cent. is estimated to reduce the number of pensioners below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs by around 200,000, based on 2007-08 benefit rates.

Social Security Benefits

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people claiming benefits with no entitlement *(a)* accidentally and *(b)* on purpose; and if he will make a statement; [155929]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total amount of benefit money claimed with no entitlement *(a)* on purpose and *(b)* accidentally in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [155931]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people found guilty of claiming benefits illegally in each of the last three years were not British. [157176]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of benefit fraud were reported in each super-output area in each of the last five years. [157185]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

Social Security Benefits: Separation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who claimed benefit for the first time owing to marriage breakdown in each of the last five years. [156920]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment his Department has made of the case for the extension of the winter fuel allowance to terminally ill people; [156722]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the likely cost of extending the winter fuel allowance to terminally ill people. [156723]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The structure of the scheme, which provides an annual lump sum payment, is not appropriate for the needs of terminally ill people. Entitlement is based on a person's circumstances in a

qualifying week which is the third full week in September. The process to establish entitlement then takes a further six weeks and payments are made in November and December. This ensures that older people are confident that they will be able to afford the heating that they use in the coldest part of the year. The extra heating needs of terminally ill people can arise at any time of year, not just in the winter months. Help is available for terminally ill people through the care and mobility components in disability living allowance and the disability premiums in the income-related benefits which have a substantially higher annual value and are spread over a 52 week period.

People who are terminally ill can receive the highest rate of the care component of disability living allowance without having to serve the three months qualifying period and the benefit is usually paid within 10 days from the time the claim is received. Most people who qualify for the highest rate disability living allowance care component under these special rules also qualify for the highest rate disability living allowance mobility component. Also, where a disability premium is paid in an income related benefit, a cold weather payment is payable in periods of very cold weather. Together, these payments are designed to meet the extra costs, including heating, of terminally ill people.

The annual cost of extending winter fuel payments to people aged under 60 receiving disability living allowance under the special rules related to a terminal illness is estimated at approximately £6 million.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 15 October 2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Executive Agencies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06 [156617]

Mr. Woodward: In the period 2005-07, the Northern Ireland Office had four executive agencies, as follows:

Compensation Agency for Northern Ireland;

Forensic Science Northern Ireland;

Northern Ireland Prison Service; and

Youth Justice Agency.

Information on all NIO NDPBs for 2005-06 was published at pages 338-46 of the Cabinet Office's Public Bodies Directory 2006 and can be viewed at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/publications/pdf/public-bodies/publicbodies2006.pdf

The same information for 2006-07 was published on the NIO website at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/public_bodies_2007_at_21_august_2007.pdf

The Northern Ireland Office has neither trading funds nor public corporations.

Police Stations: Downpatrick

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether a recent assessment of the security threat to Downpatrick police station has been made; and how the requirement for security measures at this station compares to other police stations in Down district. [156847]

Paul Goggins: I have been informed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland that a security assessment of Downpatrick police station was carried out in April 2007 and a further assessment has been scheduled for January 2008. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to comment on the exact nature of security measures taken at any police station.

SCOTLAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has any plans to bring forward legislation to devolve policy relating to abortion to the Scottish Parliament; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [158306]

David Cairns: There are no plans to devolve policy relating to abortion, and I have received no recent representations on this issue.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business class flights in the last 12 months. [153198]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on first class and business class flights. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil Service Management Code' and the 'Ministerial Code', copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. Information relating to overseas travel by Ministers is published on an annual basis; the 2006-07 edition was published on 25 July 2007 and is also available in the Library of the House.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153201]

David Cairns: None.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153197]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on first class train tickets. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil Service Management Code' and the 'Ministerial Code', copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. Information relating to overseas travel by Ministers is published on an annual basis; the 2006-07 edition was published on 25 July 2007 and is also available in the Library of the House.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153191]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office incurred no costs on redundancy payments in the financial year 2006-07.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153192]

David Cairns: £6,834 was spent on staff away days in 2006-07.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153193]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not hold information in the form requested. The staff in the Office are on loan from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, both of whom provide free access to training and development opportunities.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153194]

David Cairns: Nothing.

Elections

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what measures are in place to ensure that Scottish returning officers receive appropriate guidance on who can register for elections anonymously; and if he will make a statement. [157815]

David Cairns: Statutory responsibility for the provision of guidance to electoral administrators, including returning officers, lies with the Electoral Commission. The Commission provided guidance on anonymous registration in Circular EC24/2007 which issued to all electoral registration officers and returning officers in Scotland on 22 May this year.

Ministers

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has held discussions with the Scottish Executive on their Ministerial Code published in August 2003. [156504]

David Cairns: No. The Scottish Ministerial Code is a matter for Scottish Ministers.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Accountability

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will list the steps taken to improve accountability of the Commission following the report produced by Sir Kevin Tebbit; and if he will make a statement. [158235]

Nick Harvey: The Commission has yet to consider this aspect of the Tebbit review but is interested to hear the views of hon. Members, not least when the review is debated in Westminster Hall on 18 October.

Delivery Services

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will replace the envelopes used to deliver the Vote to hon. Members with reusable mail pouches. [157776]

Nick Harvey: No. The possibility has been considered but it is not practical. The reusable mail pouches in use to circulate mail on the parliamentary estate are intended for enveloped mail.

Leader of the Opposition

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what square footage of *(a)* office space and *(b)* other space is available to the Leader of the Opposition on the Parliamentary Estate. [157803]

Nick Harvey: The Leader of the Opposition and his staff occupy a suite of six rooms in Norman Shaw South totalling 266.1 m^2 (approximately 2,864 ft^2). In addition he has access to, but not sole use of, two meeting rooms; one in Norman Shaw South and a second in the Shadow Cabinet Block totalling 67.9m^2 (approximately 731 ft^2).

Parliament: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on how many occasions illegal drugs have been found in the Palace of Westminster in the last 30 years. [156911]

Nick Harvey: Police records date from 2001. Since then there have been three seizures of drugs, all cannabis, all in quantities consistent with personal use. Two of these were recorded in 2005, one in 2006.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Committee on Standards in Public Life: Electoral Commission

Mr. Todd: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what response the Speaker's Committee has made to the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, on the Electoral Commission. [158430]

Peter Viggers: As I told the hon. Member for Liverpool, Walton (Mr. Kilfoyle) on 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1398W, the Speaker's Committee supported the Committee on Standards in Public Life in undertaking this review of the role and governance of the Electoral Commission, and was grateful to Sir Alistair Graham and his colleagues for their thorough inquiry. The Speaker's Committee published its observations on the CSPL report in its

First Report 2007, which was laid before the House on 26 July as House of Commons Paper No. 996, copies of which are available in the Vote Office. The CSPL report ranged widely over the mandate, governance and accountability of the Electoral Commission and also commented on aspects of the integrity of the electoral system, making 47 recommendations in all. Not all of these are directly relevant to the functions of the Speaker's Committee, and the Committee has restricted its detailed comments to recommendations directly addressed to itself, or in relation to which it has a specific policy interest.

The Committee looks forward to seeing the Government's response to the report as a whole. It shares the view of CSPL that any primary legislation arising from recommendations it has made should be enacted in the next parliamentary Session.

Electoral Commission: Standards

Angela Browning: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Speaker's Committee has received the Comptroller and Auditor General's statutory value for money report on the Electoral Commission 2005-06. [158431]

Peter Viggers: Yes. The Speaker's Committee considered this report, entitled 'Electoral Registration: The lynchpin of democracy', at its meeting on 27 June. The report focuses on the important issue of electoral registration and makes eight recommendations to the Electoral Commission, on: the use of its new powers to request information from Electoral Registration Officers, improving the completeness and the accuracy of the electoral register, and performance measurement.

The Committee is grateful to the Comptroller and Auditor General for this thorough report on a key element in the electoral process. It has been published as an Appendix to the Committee's Second Report 2007, and the Committee is now seeking the Electoral Commission's response to its recommendations. The report was laid before the House on 26 July 2007 as House of Commons Paper No 997, and copies are available in the Vote Office.

WALES

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices bought for the use of departmental Ministers have been returned to the Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156729]

Mr. Hain: In July 2003 Wales Office became part of the then Department of Constitutional Affairs and new equipment was provided to the Wales Office under their contracts from April 2004.

Since that date there has been two Cabinet reshuffles where one mobile phone and one laptop were returned by the outgoing Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and re-allocated to the incoming one.

All equipment held by the Wales Office prior to 2004 was returned to the National Assembly for Wales, as supplied under their contracts.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157923]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157924]

Mr. Hain: None.

JUSTICE

Courts: Translation Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on translators in British courts in each of the last five years. [157701]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost through the manual searching of individual court files. Her Majesty's Courts Service is giving consideration to the routine collection of data relating to interpreting and translation services used in court.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what accounts directions were issued by his Department's predecessors in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156644]

Maria Eagle: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury issue accounts directions to departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Ministry of Justice and its predecessors has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

2005-06

Legal Services Commission
Information Commissioner's Office
Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman
Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

Youth Justice Board

Parole Board

Criminal Cases Review Commission

42 Probation Boards

2006-07

Legal Services Commission

Information Commissioner's Office

Judicial Appointments Commission

Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman

Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

Youth Justice Board

Parole Board

Criminal Cases Review Commission

42 Probation Boards

Further specific accounts directions have been issued by HM Treasury for the following sponsored bodies:

Funds in Court in England and Wales

Official Solicitor and Public Trustee in respect of Stewardship of Third Party Monies

Returning Officer's Election Expenses

National Probation Service

Driving Offences: Prosecutions

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers were prosecuted for being involved in fatal hit-and-run accidents in each of the last five years; and what the average length of sentence handed down was. [157097]

Maria Eagle: While the Department for Transport monitors details of road traffic accidents including 'hit and run', this information is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecutions.

Although the Court Proceedings Database held by my Department can provide sentencing data on the numbers of defendants convicted of motoring offences that cause the death of a person, the information held cannot distinguish hit and run incidents from those where the driver remained at the scene.

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W, on Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre, whether serious assaults are recorded separately from other assaults under the PSIMOn—Prison Service Information for Managers Online—system; and if he will make a statement. [157841]

Mr. Hanson: Yes, from April 2003 since when the key performance indicator for prison violence has been based on serious assaults which account for about 9 per cent. of all assault incidents. This replaced a measure based on the number of proven adjudications (the internal disciplinary process) for assaults generally. Pre and post April 2003 assault incident data cannot be readily compared.

Offenders: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to the Corston Review of women in the penal system. [157761]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have given a broad welcome to the report. The 43 recommendations which it makes are wide-ranging and propose action by a number of different Government Departments and organisations. We are carefully exploring the best way of taking forward the recommendations with all the Departments and agencies concerned and will publish a detailed response by late autumn.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expenditure was on *(a)* treatment and *(b)* rehabilitation for illegal drug users and *(b)* treatment and rehabilitation of people dependent on alcohol within the criminal justice system in each of the last 10 years. [157232]

Mr. Hanson: Funding allocated for those engaged in drug treatment within the Criminal Justice System is given in the following table.

Funding for rehabilitation and support services is not disaggregated by type of offence.

Funding for the provision of treatment and rehabilitation of people with an alcohol dependency is not recorded.

£ million

Allocations	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Prison Drug Treatment	12.6	16.5	27.3	28.7	37.7	48.4	57.4	74.4	76.1
Allocation to Probation areas to fund DTTO/DRR supervision and enforcement costs in England and full DTTO/DRR costs in Wales[1]	—	—	21.2	16.0	24.0	34.0	39.0	39.0	39.0
Amount paid to pooled treatment budget to fund DTTO/DRR treatment and testing in England[2]	—	—	14.8	20.0	29.7	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0

Allocations	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£ million 2007-08
Centrally allocated funds for Alcohol Best Practice Project[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.09	0.03
Drug Interventions Programme(DIP)[4]	—	—	—	—	36.0	119.0	143.0	175.0	149.0
Prospects[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.0	3.8	4.35
Youth Justice Board allocations for the juvenile secure estate (YJB)[6]	—	—	—	—	10.0	10.0	7.0	7.0	7.0

[1] Figures are unavailable for 1999-2000 and 2000-01.
[2] Figures are unavailable for 1999-2000 and 2000-01.
[3] Figures are only available for 2006-07 and 2007-08.
[4] Figures are unavailable fort he period 1999-2000 to 2002-03 inclusive and 2007-08. Expenditure since 2003-04 for the Drug Interventions Programme, which aims to get drug misusing offenders out of crime and into treatment and other support, and therefore contributes to rehabilitation of offenders of drug users.
[5] Figures only available for 2005-06 to 2007-08 inclusive.
[6] Figures only available for 2003-04 to 2007-08 inclusive.

Prison Accommodation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions or meetings Ministers or officials in his Department had with the Home Office on the use or transfer of the Immigration Detention Estate for use in housing prisoners. [156974]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office hold regular discussions on a range of estate issues.

There are no immediate plans to use or transfer any part of the Immigration Estate to prison use.

The National Offender Management Service closely monitors the prison population and continues to investigate options for providing further increases in capacity.

Prison Service: Greater London

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals against dismissal have been upheld by the Prison Service Area Manager for London since he took up his post; and if he will make a statement. [157567]

Mr. Hanson: The Area Manager for London has upheld five appeals against dismissal since taking up his current post.

Prison Service: Professional Standards Unit

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 791W, on the Prison Service: Professional Standards Unit, (1) whether an independent appeals process is available to address concerns about the standards of a commissioning authority; and if he will make a statement; [157716]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that a commissioning authority meets its obligations and has made the appropriate quality checks; and if he will make a statement. [157717]

Mr. Hanson: Prison Service Order (PSO) 8460: Conduct and Discipline explains the mandatory requirements for all aspects of the disciplinary process, including the role and responsibilities of the commissioning manager and appeal authority. There are no formal mechanisms in place to review the actions of a commissioning manager. However, there is a right of appeal against all formal disciplinary outcomes and any concerns regarding the decisions or actions of the commissioning manager can be raised at that appeal. The appeal authority would normally be a more senior manager than the person making the original disciplinary decision.

Prisoners: European Parliament Members

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any special arrangements will be made for Ashley Mote MEP, to enable him to continue his European Parliamentary work whilst in prison. [157025]

Mr. Hanson: No special arrangements have been made to enable Mr. Mote to continue his work as an MEP. Mr. Mote's status as an MEP does not entitle him to any special privileges, or to be treated differently to any other prisoner.

Prisoners: Parole

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have passed the date on which they are eligible for parole but have not yet been assessed; and by how many days they are overdue on average. [156985]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be collated only by manual checking of individual case details, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Payments

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money a prisoner is allowed to send out of his account to those outside prison in the form

of a cash disbursement; what the purpose of a prisoner cash disbursement is; what level of authorisation is required for one; whether they are used as a means of intelligence gathering at HM Prison Service establishments; and if he will make a statement. [157566]

Mr. Hanson: The Governor authorises and has discretion to decide the amount of money a prisoner can send out, having considered any security implications. The purpose of a cash disbursement is to enable prisoners to send money out of prison for a range of purposes which include providing financial support to their families. There are various means by which prisons gather intelligence and cash disbursements assist with this process.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential link between prisoner cash disbursements and trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [157573]

Mr. Hanson: There has been no assessment of this potential link at a national level. However, the link between the movement of cash from a prisoner's account and possible trafficking is one line of inquiry that may be explored by staff investigating individual allegations of trafficking.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what geographical subdivisions HM Prison Service uses for the purpose of administration; how many there are; how many prison establishments are located in each such area; and if he will make a statement. [158453]

Mr. Hanson: There are 11 geographical areas in HM Prison Service and the numbers of prison establishments in each is shown in the following table. A map of prison establishments in England and Wales is in the Library of the House. HM Prison Service areas correspond to the Government Regions and Wales, except that the South East Government Region is divided into two Prison Service areas.

HM Prison Service areas

Area	*Number of establishments*
East Midlands	15
Eastern	12
London	7
North East	7
North West	14
South East (Kent and Sussex)	12
South East (South Central)	15
South West	13
Wales	3
West Midlands	12
Yorkshire and Humberside	10
High Security Prisons (not included in geographical areas)	8
Contracted prisons (not managed by HM Prison Service)	11

Prisons: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sites his Department has identified for a new prison in Wales. [158194]

Mr. Hanson: A number of potential sites in Wales are currently being investigated as possible sites for new prison development. Once the process has been completed the sites with the most potential will be considered and at that stage will be made public and be subject to consultation.

Young Offenders: Crime Prevention

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on crime prevention funding for youth offending teams over the next four years; and what discussions he has had on this issue with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [157938]

Mr. Hanson: I have received representations on this matter from the Youth Justice Board, as part of the normal process of agreeing their budget, and in writing from a small number of delivery organisations. There are also ongoing discussions with Department for Children, Schools and Families. Funding arrangements for the next CSR period will be announced in due course.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of buying new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices for new Ministers in his Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156726]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Parliamentary Under Secretaries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the total estimated annual cost is of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space, *(d)* administrative support and *(e)* special advisers for the two new parliamentary under-secretaries of state in his Department. [154627]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested would be available only at disproportionate cost. A list of special advisers by Department and pay band will be published in due course. Details of ministerial salaries are available in the House Library and at:

http:/www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/parliamentary/pay/ministerial/index.asp

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations in each financial year since 2005-06. [156648]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which DFID is responsible for are detailed in the report Public Bodies 2006, available on the following website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/publications/pdf/public-bodies/publicbodies2006.pdf.

In addition DFID is responsible for a public corporation, CDC (see DFID's Annual Report 2007 for more details).

DFID does not have any executive agencies, tribunal NDPBs or trading funds.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the official foreign trips which *(a)* he has made since July and *(b)* are scheduled for him to take before December. [155852]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since July I have made the following official foreign trips:

Washington—for discussions with the World Bank and US Administration;

Sudan—to visit Darfur and Juba, and for discussions with the Government;

Afghanistan—to visit Kabul and Helmand, and for discussions with the Government;

New York—for the United Nations General Assembly.

Future ministerial travel plans are not disclosed on security grounds.

Developing Countries: Exports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what restrictions are available to be applied to imported goods which are manufactured for United Kingdom-based retailers by work forces *(a)* employed under conditions that do not meet minimum International Labour Organisation standards and *(b)* operating in factory conditions that breach local environmental pollution regulations; and what mechanisms are in place to evaluate the working conditions of work forces abroad producing goods for import into the United Kingdom. [156196]

Mr. Thomas: We continue to provide support and advice to build developing countries own ability to meet International Labour Organisation (ILO) and environmental standards, rather than seeking to impose solutions from outside.

The UK has consistently promoted efforts to ensure that international trade takes place on a sustainable basis, the principles of which include respect for the rights of workers and for environmental standards. We support voluntary codes of practice such as the Ethical Trading Initiative and the Fairtrade Foundation. We also support the work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which has a three-year, £20 million partnership agreement with DFID. The UK Government are also supporting sustainable development through measures such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative.

There are no restrictions available to be applied to imported goods which are manufactured for United Kingdom-based retailers by work forces that are either employed under conditions that do not meet International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards, or that operate in factory conditions that breach local environmental pollution regulations. This is because there would be significant practical obstacles to implementing such measures, as well as the fact that it would be difficult to make them compatible with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

Developing Countries: International Assistance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries the Government expect *(a)* to meet and *(b)* not to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. [157331]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The 2007 UN Millennium Development Goals Report, which can be found on http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx, reports progress on each of the goals by region and shows where the challenges to achieving them by 2015 are greatest. Country level information is not currently published.

DFID will continue to provide an update on progress against the MDGs for individual countries identified within the Public Service Agreement in its Annual report. The latest assessment of progress can be found in the 2007 report "Development on the Record", which is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/departmental-report/2007/default.asp

Ethiopia

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [157706]

Mr. Thomas: A United Nations team made an assessment of the situation at the beginning of September. It concluded that although there was no major humanitarian crisis in the Somali (Ogaden) region, humanitarian conditions within conflict areas were deteriorating; there was an urgent need for food and medical supplies and for help with water and sanitation.

The Government of Ethiopia have accepted the report's conclusions and is working with the UN on an action plan to implement the recommendations.

Restrictions on commercial traffic, which were causing dramatic increases in food prices, have now been lifted and four major cross-border commercial routes have been opened. Improvements are expected as a result of the resumption of trade and the start of the rainy season. DFID and the other donors are working with the Ethiopian Government and the United Nations to ensure that humanitarian assistance will be delivered to those who need it.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Ethiopian Government about the security situation in the Ogaden region; and if he will make a statement. [157707]

Mr. Thomas: The British ambassador raised the issue of the security situation in the Somali (Ogaden) region of Ethiopia with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in September. This followed a United Nations assessment mission to the region from 30 August to 5 September, the conclusions of which have been accepted by the Ethiopian Government, and security is now improving. The Ethiopian response to the UN assessment has been reassuring, and we hope that the situation will continue to improve in the coming months.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to make a contribution of £700 million over three years to the Global Fund to fight *(a)* AIDS, *(b)* tuberculosis and *(c)* malaria; and if he will make a statement. [156406]

Mr. Malik: At the Global Fund Replenishment conference on 27 September, the UK made an unprecedented eight-year commitment of up to £1 billion.

The Global Fund has performed sufficiently well, and the need is so great, that we decided to maintain the UK's current high level of contribution to the fund. We therefore pledged £360 million over the three-year replenishment period (2008-10), with £30 million of this subject to demand and results. This represents a 20 per cent. increase on our current level of commitment and maintains our share of the total replenishment at 7.5 per cent.

But over and above this, we also pledged an additional £640 million from 2011-15, providing the Global Fund is receiving good quality demand, continues to perform well, and is demonstrating sustainable impact.

People suffering from HIV/AIDS need life-long uninterrupted treatment. Building up the health services of developing countries to treat HIV/AIDS sufferers and cure those afflicted by TB and malaria requires reliable and sustained investment. The long-term predictable funding now committed by the UK to the Global Fund will significantly enhance the fund's capacity to support developing countries in fighting the three pandemic diseases and making the investment in their health systems needed to sustain this fight and serve the full health needs of their populations.

Iraq: International Assistance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects the *(a)* International Monetary Fund and *(b)* World Bank has financed in Iraq. [156071]

Mr. Malik: Since 2003, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has had two programmes in Iraq. The first of these was the Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance programme, approved in September 2004 to the value of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 297 million. The second and current programme is the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA), which gives Iraq access to SDR 475 million should it require assistance. This programme will finish in December 2007, and the Government of Iraq and IMF are currently discussing a successor programme. The IMF is also providing US $6 million in technical assistance and capacity-building on fiscal, monetary, financial and statistical issues.

The World Bank, which started to re-engage with Iraq in mid-2003, manages a multi-donor Trust Fund to provide short and medium-term reconstruction needs. It has committed most of its resources, but disbursement has been limited ($108 million out of $490 million to date). This year the World Bank has approved four International Development Association loans worth $400 million for projects in the electricity, infrastructure and education sectors. It is also providing important analytical services to help strengthen public institutions: for example it is carrying out an assessment of Iraqi public financial management systems with the intention of developing a reform programme. More information can be found at:

www.worldbank.org

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to reply to the letter of 10 July from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire addressed to the Prime Minister and passed to his Department, on international development issues, on behalf of Mr. Owen Morgan. [157431]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: My hon. Friend Baroness Vadera has replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 10 July.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 10 July, addressed to the Prime Minister and passed to his Department, about international development issues, on behalf of Mrs. D. M. Green. [157950]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: My hon. Friend Baroness Vadera has replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 10 July.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean dated

6 July to the right hon. Member for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath on international aid. [158039]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: My hon. Friend Baroness Vadera has replied to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean's letter of 6 July.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussion he has had with the *(a)* United Nations, *(b)* EU and *(c)* African Union on the humanitarian and economic situation in Zimbabwe; and what steps he is taking to improve that situation. [156295]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State for International Development recently discussed the situation in Zimbabwe with the UN Secretary General in New York. He and the Foreign Secretary have also had high level discussions in recent weeks with the AU and EU, and key member states of both.

We continue to provide between £30 million and £40 million of humanitarian assistance a year to protect the Zimbabwean people from the worst effects of the current crisis, and are giving support to those in Zimbabwe working for democratic change. When the time is right, we stand ready to support a major international programme to assist Zimbabwe's recovery.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many prisoners have been taken by UK forces in Afghanistan in each *(a)* week and *(b)* month since June 2006. [156591]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We do not operate a policy of internment in Afghanistan. UK forces do occasionally briefly detain suspected criminals so that they can be passed to the Government of Afghanistan. Our records indicate that the number of detainees that have passed through British custody between June 2006 and August 2007 are as follows:

Month	*Week*	*Number*
2006		
July	10-16	1
	17-23	3
August/September	28-03	7 (September)
	11-17	1
	18-24	8
October	23-29	1
October/November	30-05	1 (November)
2007		
January	08-14	1
	15-21	5
February	12-18	12
	19-25	2
March	05-11	4
April	02-08	5
	09-15	1
April/May	30-06	3 (April) 6 (May)
	14-20	4
May/June	28-03	1 (May)
	04-10	2
	11-17	5
	18-24	3
June/July	25-01	1 (July)
	02-08	8
	09-15	7
	16-22	3
	23-29	2
July/August	30-05	17 (July)
	06-12	3
	20-26	1
August/September	27-02	7 (August)
Total	—	125

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* 5.56 mm, *(b)* 7.62 mm and *(c)* 105 mm rounds have been discharged in Afghanistan by British forces since June 2006. [157026]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of rounds of these types of ammunition used by UK forces in Afghanistan from June 2006 to the end of September 2007 are as follows:

Ammunition type	*Number of rounds discharged*
5.56 mm	Approx 1.1 million rounds
7.62 mm	Approx 1.6 million rounds
105 mm high explosive	Approx 12,000 rounds

Armed Forces: Casualties

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the regulations governing the return of fatalities to the UK; whether they are transported on aircraft carrying soldiers; and whether coffins are transported in view of travelling personnel. [157164]

Des Browne: Military aircraft involved in the repatriation of a fatality do not normally carry passengers unless it is judged operationally essential, for example when injured personnel require aeromedical evacuation. When injured personnel or other passengers are aboard, a screen is placed across the aircraft to separate them from the coffin carrying the deceased. Any additional personnel would also disembark separately, prior to the repatriation ceremony.

Armed Forces: Prisons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans exist for using the armed forces to replace prison guards during a strike. [157048]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Service personnel are only used to provide cover during industrial disputes such as prison strikes as a last resort. There are accordingly no armed forces personnel on permanent stand-by to provide cover for striking prison officers. In the event of a strike, HM Prison Service will explore all available options, with armed forces personnel being used only if necessary.

Chad

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he had with his European counterparts on a European Union military mission to Chad during the meeting of Defence Ministers in Evora, Portugal, 28 September; and if he will make a statement. [157037]

Des Browne: I discussed issues relating to force generation and funding for the planned EU-led military mission to Chad/Central African Republic, although no decisions were taken. I emphasised that the UK supports the mission as an important contribution to regional stability and a resolution to the Darfur crisis, but we have made it clear that the role of the UK armed forces in any mission will be very limited given the extent of our commitments elsewhere.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's *(a)* administrative expenditure, *(b)* other current expenditure, *(c)* grant expenditure, *(d)* operating appropriations in aid (A in A), *(e)* capital and *(f)* non-operating A in A outturn, broken down in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms, was for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [156001]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the right hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-38, on Iraq, where the 2,500 British personnel in Iraq will be based from spring 2008 providing the security conditions on the ground in Iraq to permit the reduction of British military forces. [157133]

Des Browne: From spring 2008, around 2,500 British forces personnel will be based in southern Iraq, with the majority located at the contingency operating base at Basra air station.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current mission objectives are of British forces operating along the Iraq-Iran border. [157134]

Des Browne: The mission objectives are to enhance border security and deter and intercept the smuggling of illegal weapons through the training and mentoring of Department of Border Enforcement personnel and by discrete supporting operations.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his American counterpart on the future security of the Iraq-Iran border. [157135]

Des Browne: I hold regular discussions with the US Defense Secretary on issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Iraq.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the security situation in *(a)* Basra, (b) Maysan, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Al Muthanna. [157139]

Des Browne: While there are still problems and challenges to be overcome, the general security situation in Basra province remains relatively stable and attacks against coalition forces have reduced sharply in recent months. Crime rates in Basra during September remain similar to the levels prior to the handover of Basra palace to Iraqi control. Where security incidents have occurred, the Iraqi security forces, under the leadership of General Mohan, have demonstrated their ability to deal with them swiftly and effectively.

The three other provinces in Multi-National Division South East are all under provincial Iraqi control. The overall security situation in all three is generally stable, and where isolated incidents of violence have occurred, the Iraqi security forces have again demonstrated that they are well able to deal with them effectively.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his American counterpart on the use by British forces of the American military base Camp Arifjan in Kuwait; and if he will make a statement. [157143]

Des Browne: I have regular discussions with my US counterpart on issues of mutual interest, including the deployment of British forces in support of Operation Telic.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which private contractors provided force protection for British forces in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2001, broken down by company. [157144]

Des Browne: The MOD has not employed private military or security companies to provide force protection for its military personnel deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan. ArmorGroup was contracted to provide guards for the UK Defence Advisers' accommodation in Kabul for three months.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the reduction of British forces from 4,500 to 4,000 mentioned in the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq, 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-38, will result in the difference of 500 troops being *(a)* sent home to the United Kingdom or *(b)* to another base outside Iraq but still in the region; and if he will make a statement. [157145]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 October 2007]*: The Prime Minister made clear the position with respect to

future UK force levels in southern Iraq in his statement to the House on 8 October.

Reductions in UK force levels in Southern Iraq below the level of 4,500 are planned to result in troops being withdrawn from the region to their home bases in the UK and Germany.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date the 500 British Armed Forces logistics personnel mentioned in the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-38, will enter the area of operations. [157146]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The move of logistics and support personnel out of Iraq will straddle the roulement of UK forces. As a result some will transfer from Basra while others may deploy directly from the UK or Germany. It is not possible to provide a breakdown at this stage. It is planned that this process will be complete by the end of the year.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cap badge is of the military personnel performing force protection duties at Basra airfield. [157147]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* Force Protection arrangements at Basra airfield are complex, multi layered and constantly evolving to respond to the changing security situation. Royal Air Force, British Army and coalition personnel contribute to this in many different roles. It is not practicable to give the cap badge of every military personnel involved at any particular time.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date British forces will total 4,000 personnel in Iraq. [157149]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The drawdown of forces to 4,000 is conditions-based. No date has been set.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the 1,000 personnel to be withdrawn from Iraq are to be located following their withdrawal. [157214]

Des Browne: 500 troops are in the process of returning to home bases now. The process of moving 500 logistic and support staff from Iraq to elsewhere in the region will also begin shortly. This process will extend over the next roulement of forces. Some troops will reposition directly from Iraq and others will return to the UK and will be replaced by troops who will deploy from UK and Germany to new locations in the region. It is not possible to determine the precise breakdown at this stage.

Further reductions will involve troops returning to their home bases.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister for Veterans will reply to the letter of 21 August 2007, Departmental reference MC04605/2007, from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire. [157432]

Derek Twigg: I replied to the hon. Member on 30 September.

Military Exercises

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what involvement the UK has in Exercise Vigilant Shield 08; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK of the exercise. [157799]

Des Browne: The UK is not engaged in Exercise Vigilant Shield 08 but is participating in Exercise Global Lightning 08, a related exercise under the aegis of the US Department of Homeland Security's overarching exercise "Top Officials 4". The costs to the UK are estimated at around £5,000 and have been met from existing travel and subsistence budgets.

Military Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any units of the British Army have declined to take *(a)* Snatch Landrovers and *(b)* other vehicles to operational theatre. [157079]

Des Browne: The Permanent Joint Headquarters determines which vehicles are deployed, based on advice from operational commanders. Units deploy vehicles to meet this requirement. No unit has declined to take vehicles required for use in theatre.

Written Questions

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons Questions *(a)* 154393, *(b)* 154394 and *(c)* 154397 on the Royal Navy, tabled by the hon. Member for New Forest East on 26 July 2007 for named day answer on 8 October 2007, have not yet received substantive answers; and if he will make a statement. [157434]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The answers were delayed as my weekend ministerial box was not delivered to the office until 9 October as a result of the postal strike. I replied to the hon. Member on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 501 and 510-11W.

TRANSPORT

Cars: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the car-free day initiative in Hampshire in September 2007; and if she will make a statement. [157257]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport sponsors a national coordinator to promote the car free initiative ('In Town, Without My Car') and to collate information about local authorities who wish to register. This event takes place annually on 22 September as part of European Mobility Week. We

also provide a good practice guide—Making 'In Town, Without My Car' Work—which is available free of charge to the public. Records of participating towns and cities throughout the UK are kept on the Mobility Week website. This year there were 58 participating towns although none of them were in Hampshire. The link is at:

http://www.mobilityweek.eu/cities/participants_eu.php?page=rubique

The event is voluntary and it is for local authorities to decide whether they take part and how they wish to participate. Each year European Mobility Week has a theme aimed at promoting sustainable travel initiatives. This year's theme was 'Streets for People'.

Local authorities are aware that the Government see most merit in initiatives that reduce the need for car use and encourage better facilities for cyclists and walkers and we have stressed that it is essential that sufficient good quality public transport is provided to meet the needs of those who wish to travel on the day.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list her Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations in each financial year since 2005-06. [156647]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of the Department for Transport's executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies, trading funds and public corporations for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are set out in the Department's annual reports for 2006 and 2007.

The Cabinet Office provided a central list of all non-departmental public bodies for 2005-06 in its publication 'Public Bodies 2006'. The Cabinet Office also publishes the List of Ministerial Responsibilities, which is updated on a regular basis and lists all executive agencies.

Home Zones

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the location is of each *(a)* completed Home Zone and *(b)* Home Zone under construction. [157958]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government do not hold information on the location of all Home Zone schemes, as local authorities are able to implement them independently and are not required to provide details. Locations of completed schemes funded from the Government's Home Zones Challenge programme, and the pilot Home Zone schemes which preceded it, are listed in the following table.

Government office region	*Authority*	*Scheme location*
Eastern	Luton	Haymarket Green
	Norfolk	Cavell Road, Norwich
	Peterborough	New England[1]
	Suffolk	Cambridge Road, Lowestoft
North East	Darlington	Pateley Moor Crescent
	Gateshead	Tyne Park
	Middlesbrough	Gresham Area
	North Tyneside	The Triangle
	Northumberland	Cowpen Quay, Blyth
	South Tyneside	Cleadon Park
North West	Blackpool	Talbot and Brunswick
	Bolton	Oldham's Estate
	Bury	Aston Estate
	Cheshire	Egerton Street Area, Chester
	Lancashire	Poulton Area, Morecambe
		South West Area, Burnley
	Liverpool	Grafton Street
	Manchester	Northmoor Phase 1[1]
		Northmoor Phase 2
	Rochdale	Wardleworth
	St. Helens	Bidston Avenue
	Tameside	Ashton West End
	Trafford	Addiston Crescent
	Warrington	Whitecross
	Wigan	Browning Street
	Wirral	Dundonald and Methuen Streets
South East	East Sussex	Town Farm Estate, Hailsham
	Hampshire	Castle Grove, Porchester
	Kent	Cavell Way, Sittingbourne[1]
		Northcourt Estate, Denton
	Oxfordshire	Saxton Road, Abingdon
	Reading	Kingsbridge Road
	Southampton	Radcliffe Road
	Surrey	Nutley Lane, Reigate
	West Sussex	North West Bognor Regis
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	Albert Avenue, Peasedown St. John
	Bristol	Southville
	Cornwall	North Close Estate, Redruth
	Devon	Wonford Estate, Exeter
	Plymouth	Morice Town[1]
	Wiltshire	College Community Area, Trowbridge

Government office region	Authority	Scheme location
		Westleigh Area, Warminster
West Midlands	Birmingham	Pitts Farm, Erdington
	Staffordshire	Silkmore, Stafford
		Wilmot Drive, Newcastle under Lyme
	Telford and Wrekin	West Woodside
	Wolverhampton	Fordhouses
	Worcestershire	Duke of Edinburgh Way, Malvern
East Midlands	Derby	Normanton
	Nottingham	Nobel Road[1]
		Kennington Road Area
Yorkshire and Humberside	Kingston upon Hull	Albany Street
	Kirklees	Moorside Estate
	Leeds	The Methleys[1] Littlemoor
	North Lincolnshire	Crosby/Frodingham, Scunthorpe
London	Bromley	Rookery Gardens, St. Mary's Cray
	Camden	Lupton Street
	Ealing	Five Roads[1]
	Greenwich	Deptford Green
	Haringey	Linden Road
	Kingston upon Thames	Cavendish Road
	Lambeth	Holmewood[1] (completion uncertain)
	Newham	Cranberry Estate
	Southwark	Sutherland Square
Wales	Monmouthshire	Magor Village[1]

[1] Pilot project.

Lorries: Accidents

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of all collisions involving large goods vehicles involved foreign-registered vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available. [158360]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested for reported personal injury road accidents involving foreign registered vehicles is available from table 53 of 'Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report'. Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/285672/WebTables4153.xls

M1: Castle Donington

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 906W, on the M1: Castle Donington, if, following the traffic management pilot project on the M42 south east of Birmingham, she plans to allow the use of hard shoulders on motorways at times of severe congestion. [157546]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Highways Agency is still evaluating the Active Traffic Management pilot project on the M42 and hopes to be in a position to make the results of its findings available shortly.

My hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for Transport, the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) announced in December 2006 that we will work with the Highways Agency to develop the case for productivity Transport Innovation Fund funding for an Active Traffic Management Scheme on the Birmingham Motorway Box. Beyond this, there are no plans at the present time to allow traffic to use the hard shoulder in response to severe congestion.

M1: Dunstable

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to build junction 11a of the M1 during the widening of this stretch of the M1; and if she will make a statement. [157543]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State accepted the regional assembly's advice that the scheme should be funded in the period 2011-12 to 2015-16 but that it should be considered for an earlier start if there is slippage on other schemes in the East of England region.

In the meantime, the Highways Agency has been instructed to progress the scheme through the statutory process, including a public inquiry if necessary, to allow construction of the whole scheme, or junction 11a only, concurrently with M1 widening junction 10-13 in 2010-11 if funding can be made available.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the latest estimate is of the additional cost of building junction 11a of the M1 after the M1 has been widened between junctions 10 and 13, over and above the previous estimate of £14.6 million given by the Highways Agency. [157545]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest estimate of the additional cost of construction of the proposed M1 junction 11a (part of A5-M1 link (Dunstable Northern bypass)) in 2013-14, compared to construction concurrently with M1 widening junction 10-13 in 2010-11, is £11.5 million (including the effect of inflation).

Motor Vehicles: Navigation

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on her Department's consultation on in-vehicle information systems. [157602]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has conducted an informal consultation on in-vehicle information systems and intends to publish a summary of the results by the end of the year.

It will be published on the departmental website, and copies will be sent to the Libraries of both Houses.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected timescale is for the publication of the proposals on in-vehicle information systems. [157603]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has conducted an informal consultation on in-vehicle information systems and intends to publish a summary of the results by the end of the year. The responses to this consultation, together with other information, will inform any proposals on how to move forward.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the likely impact of Galileo on the In-Vehicle Information System; and if she will make a statement. [157604]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has made no formal assessment of the likely impact of Galileo on In-Vehicle Information Systems. It is not expected to have any significant effect.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicles (HGV) and public service vehicles (PSV) were tested in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; how many such vehicles were not tested; how many such vehicles were fitted with speed limiters; how many centres in fitting limiters were approved by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in the relevant period; and how many HGVs and PSVs failed a test in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [157159]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for heavy goods vehicles (HGV) and public service vehicles (PSV) annual tests. Data on the number of vehicles tested, how many failed and the number of approved speed limiter sealer centres is published annually in its Effectiveness Report which is available online at www.vosa.gov.uk or from the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

VOSA does not hold data on the number of HGVs and PSVs that were not tested or how many vehicles were fitted with speed limiters.

Railway Network: St. Pancras Railway Station

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to build a network of high speed rail lines radiating from St. Pancras; and if she will make a statement. [157583]

Mr. Tom Harris: A high speed line from St. Pancras will open for revenue earning service on 14 November 2007, serving both Brussels and Paris. The White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, discussed the merits of further high speed rail lines but concluded that decisions on building such lines need not be made until 2012.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the extent to which STATS 19 returns underestimate the actual number of road traffic accident casualties; and when her Department became aware of the issue. [157158]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* Very few, if any, fatal accidents do not become known to the police. However, research conducted on behalf of the Department for Transport has shown that an appreciable proportion of non-fatal injury accidents are not reported to the police. There is no legal duty in Great Britain to report personal injury road accidents to the police provided the participants exchange details at the scene.

One of the earliest attempts to quantify the level of reporting in STATS 19 was published in 1979 in the report "Classification of injury severity by length of stay in hospital".

Further studies have been undertaken which also provide estimates of this shortfall and the most recent work on reporting levels was drawn together in the report "Road Safety Research Report 69: Under-reporting of Road Casualties - Phase 1" commissioned by the Department and published in June 2006:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/underreportingofroadcasuahi4788

A note on levels of reporting on STATS 19 can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/roadaccidentstatisticsgrea1835

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the merits of replacing existing speed cameras with vehicle-activated speed signs; and if she will make a statement. [157512]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Traffic authorities have a wide range of measures at their disposal to achieve appropriate vehicle speeds and they are best placed to decide the most suitable approach at a particular location. Vehicle activated signs and safety cameras are used to tackle different speeding problems. Vehicle activated signs are generally used to tackle inappropriate speed and have proven particularly effective when used to warn drivers of approaching hazards on rural roads. Safety cameras are effective in tackling excessive speed (i.e. over the posted speed limit).

Speed Limits: Schools

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what difference has been recorded in the number of casualties which have occurred outside schools after the creation of 20 mph zones outside these schools; what percentage change that figure represents; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of 20 mph zones outside schools. [157959]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not hold information on how many schools fall within 20 mph zones nor therefore how many casualties have occurred outside schools after the creation of 20 mph zones. Local authorities are responsible for introducing 20 mph speed limits where they deem it appropriate.

No specific assessment has been made of the effectiveness of 20 mph zones outside schools. The Transport Research Laboratory conducted two reviews of 20 mph zones in 1996 and again in 1998. The 1996 review found that 20 mph zones which incorporated traffic calming measures achieved an average 9 mph reduction in vehicle speeds, annual accident frequency fell by 60 per cent. and overall reduction in child accidents of 67 per cent.

The 1998 review looked at wider issues in terms of vehicle speeds and included 20 mph zones and 20 mph limits where there was lesser or no traffic calming. This found reductions in vehicle speeds were minimal when only speed limit signs were used.

Transport Direct: Internet

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the contribution of the Transport Direct portal to journey decisions since December 2005, with particular reference to modal shift. [154752]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The portal service includes a self-completion feedback questionnaire. The responses to the questionnaire suggested that for individuals who had made the journey before (about a third of the 2,034 respondents):

17 per cent. claimed they would change their route;

24 per cent. would change when they intended to travel.

Indicative findings also suggest a predisposition for those travellers who have made a journey before, to change how they might travel:

7.7 per cent. intended as a result of what they found on Transport Direct to use public transport rather than the car, while 2.3 percent. intended to use the car instead of public transport.

This information corrects that given on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 264W, to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael).

Travel: Concessions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will make a statement on the progress of discussions with her counterparts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on the prospects for mutual recognition of concessionary bus passes across the UK; [156237]

(2) whether any assessment has been made of the feasibility and cost of allowing people aged 60 and over, and eligible disabled people, to be provided with free travel on public transport around the UK; and if she will make a statement. [156238]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Concessionary travel is a devolved policy area and the devolved Administrations have their own arrangements in place.

From 1 April 2008, people aged 60 and over and eligible disabled people in England will be entitled to free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England, not just within their local area as at present. This is provided for in the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007. The Government announced that up to £250 million of additional funding is to be made available each year for the national bus concession. This equates to £212 million for England after allocations to the devolved Administrations under the Barnett formula.

The Act also contains a power to allow, via future secondary legislation, for the possibility of mutual recognition of bus passes across the UK. The Department for Transport had initial discussions with the devolved Administrations last year about the proposal and all indicated support for inclusion of this power. However, it was also acknowledged that we would need to discuss it further and work together to resolve various technical and resource issues before mutual recognition could be pursued in practice.

At present, the Government's priority is successful implementation of the national concession in England from next April. These arrangements will see the largest number of people benefiting from concessionary travel and will also be the most expensive in the UK. Until we understand the impact of the national bus concession in England it is very difficult to cost the mutual recognition of passes across the UK. Consideration would also have to be given to the possible harmonisation of modes, timings and eligibility in England, with those in the rest of the UK where there are differing arrangements—all of which increase the potential cost of providing UK wide free travel.

Local authorities in England will continue to have the flexibility to offer more than the statutory concession to their residents, for example morning peak bus travel for disabled and/or older people. English local authorities neighbouring Scotland or Wales can also offer concessionary travel that crosses the border. Any such enhancements are discretionary and are based on an authority's own assessment of local need and their overall financial priorities.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Floods

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the cost to farmers in England of the summer floods, broken down by *(a)* county and *(b)* region; and if he will make a statement. [157272]

Mr. Woolas: Data on the economic cost to farmers in England of the summer 2007 floods are not yet available due to the nature of the flooding. DEFRA has commissioned work to estimate the value of immediate crop and livestock losses from flooding, and will publish this when it is complete later in the year.

Battery Hens: EU Law

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to support the introduction of the prohibition on battery cages in 2012 contained in the 1999 EU Laying Hens Directive. [157050]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* Council Directive 99/74/EC prohibits the use of conventional (battery) cages from 1 January 2012. The Directive has been transposed into domestic legislation and includes the deadline for the ban on these cages.

Circuses

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislation regulates the use of wild animals in travelling circuses; and if he will make a statement. [157343]

Jonathan Shaw: The Protection of Animals Act 1911 long made it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to a domestic or captive animal. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (AWA), which became law on 6 April 2007 in England (on 27 March in Wales), repealed and replaced the 1911 Act. Importantly, it introduced a duty of care which allows a prosecution to be brought where an animal, although not currently suffering, is being treated in a way that fails to meet its welfare needs.

In March 2006, my hon. Friend the then Minister for Animal Welfare (Ben Bradshaw) announced that he was minded to introduce regulations under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to ban the use, in travelling circuses, of certain non-domesticated species whose welfare needs could not be satisfactorily met in that environment. A Circus Working Group was formed to inform our decisions as to what form regulations should take. The Working Group will, shortly, provide a report setting out its findings.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156650]

Jonathan Shaw: A full list of delivery bodies in the above categories can be found at notes 37 and 38 of the Department's latest published resource accounts, for the 2005-06 fiscal year. The draft 2006-07 resource accounts include two new executive NDPBs:

The Commission for Rural Communities; and

Natural England.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which individuals and organisations his Department's "Tomorrow's Climate, Today's Challenge" pack has been distributed; and what the cost of distributing the pack has been *(a)* in total, *(b)* for research, *(c)* in staff time and *(d)* for printing. [157981]

Mr. Woolas: The "Tomorrow's Climate, Today's Challenge" (TCTC) pack, which was published on 4 June 2007, has been distributed to a very wide range of organisations. To date, DEFRA has distributed around 4,167 copies of the TCTC pack and will distribute the remaining 5,833 over the course of the year.

I have arranged for a list of the organisations which have been sent the TCTC pack to be placed in the Libraries of the House. Most of the organisations requested the pack and some organisations have been sent more than one copy.

The information the hon. Member requests regarding individuals has not been provided as disclosure of this information would constitute unfair and unlawful use of personal data.

The costs of distributing the pack (including VAT where applicable) are set out in the following table. They do not include figures for producing the content of the DVD included in the pack as this was part of a separate project.

	£
(a) Cost of distributing in total	Estimated at [1]34,521
(b) Research[2]	16,807
(c) Staff time[3]	Estimated at [1]3,670
(d) Printing (10,000 copies)	12,043.75

[1] Incl. estimated postage costs at £2,000 (£0.48 per pack—UK first class postage).

[2] Research here is taken to mean design and gathering of information as no primary research was undertaken.

[3] Excl. staff time at Central Office of Information who developed the pack. This is included in research costs.

Environment Agency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects to meet the full budget recently requested by the Environment Agency. [154114]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's formal Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for 2008-09 to 20010-11 has been announced. The Secretary of State has also announced that annual Government spending on flood and coastal erosion risk management will rise to a minimum of £650 million in 2008-09, and £700 million in 2009-10, reaching £800 million by 2010-11. These figures compare with a forecast spend of £600 million in 2007-08 and is the minimum we propose to spend in each of the coming years. It is too early to determine whether this will be the final allocation, or whether it will be possible to go further.

DEFRA will now consider its own financial allocation process, during which budgets for the Environment Agency will be determined. This process will be based on careful prioritisation across the Department and all its sponsored bodies. Allocations between operating authorities will be confirmed following the medium-term planning exercise for capital projects later this year.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the fishing opportunities available for UK vessels in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [157274]

Jonathan Shaw: No such estimates have been made. The second instalment of the scientific advice from the

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), covering a number of stocks of importance to the UK, is not due to be published until later this month. We do not expect the Commission proposals for these and other relevant stocks to appear until late November.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* the Northern Ireland Executive on the UK Operational Programme for the European Fisheries Fund priorities; when he expects the draft Operational Programme to be ready for consultation; and if he will make a statement; [157247]

(2) if he will make a statement on the progress of the UK Operational Programme for the European Fisheries Fund. [157246]

Jonathan Shaw: Officials from the four fisheries administrations in the UK are currently working on the draft UK Operational Programme which will set out our proposals for the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) funding priorities. We aim to consult with fishermen and other stakeholders on the Operational Programme in early 2008.

We cannot finalise the draft programme until agreement is reached on the split of the EFF budget between the devolved Administrations. The UK budget split was discussed by devolved Fisheries Ministers on 5 October without resolution. I am continuing to seek a resolution and, if necessary, will do so through the dispute resolution procedures set out in the devolution agreements.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much European Fisheries Fund funding is available to the fishing industry in the UK over the period January 2007 to December 2013; how much has already been paid to the UK fishing industry, broken down by *(a)* licensing district and *(b)* sector; and if he will make a statement. [157248]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK portion of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) budget is €137.8 million (approx. £96 million), of which €43 million (approx. £30 million) is for convergence areas and €94.7 million (approx. £66 million) is for non-convergence areas (in current prices).

No EFF payments have been made in the UK to date. Payments cannot be made until the UK has finalised its Operational Programme and received approval of the programme from the Commission.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the size of the European Fisheries Fund for the period January 2007 to December 2013 is in *(a)* euros and *(b)* pounds sterling; and how much is being allocated to each country. [157249]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Fisheries Fund has a budget of €3,849 million (approximately £2,665 million) for the period 2007-13 (2004 prices). This equates to €4,387 million (approximately £3,038 million) in current prices.

The amount allocated to each country is set out in the following table:

Allocation of EFF to each country in 2004 prices

Member state	*Convergence*	*Non-convergence*	*Euros Total*
Austria	167,228	4,500,253	4,667,481
Belgium	—	23,301,312	23,301,312
Bulgaria	70,406,358	—	70,406,358
Cyprus	—	17,500,989	17,500,989
Czech Republic	24,003,691	—	24,003,691
Denmark	—	118,606,682	118,606,682
Estonia	74,632,182	—	74,632,182
Finland	—	35,001,972	35,001,972
France	30,389,485	161,309,090	191,698,575
Germany	86,073,715	52,352,951	138,426,666
Greece	157,293,830	27,501,551	184,795,381
Hungary	30,399,339	496,000	30,895,339
Ireland	—	37,502,115	37,502,115
Italy	282,489,352	94,105,302	376,594,654
Latvia	110,369,814	—	110,369,814
Lithuania	48,418,135	—	48,418,135
Malta	7,435,476	—	7,435,476
Netherlands	—	43,102,430	43,102,430
Poland	651,791,012	—	651,791,012
Portugal	198,766,492	20,001,128	218,767,620
Romania	202,556,179	—	202,556,179
Slovakia	11,242,552	892,801	12,135,353
Slovenia	19,330,990	—	19,330,990
Spain	840,215,806	165,209,310	1,005,425,116
Sweden	—	48,502,732	48,502,732
United Kingdom	38,335,019	84,004,734	122,339,753
Technical assistance	—	—	30,791,993
Total (in euros)	2,884,316,655	933,891,352	3,849,000,000

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the UK Operational Programme containing the UK priorities for the European Fisheries Fund will be scrutinised by the European Commission; how long he expects this process to last; and if he will make a statement. [157250]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Commission (EC) will appraise the proposed Operational Programme to determine whether it contributes to the objectives set out in Article 4, the guiding principles set out in Article 19 and the relevant part of the National Strategic Programme. The EC will take into account the ex ante evaluation referred to in Article 48 of the European Fisheries Fund Regulations (1198/2006).

If within two months following receipt of a member state's proposed Operational Programme, the EC considers that the programme is not consistent with the above factors, it may ask the member state to provide additional information. Where appropriate, the EC will ask the member state to adapt the proposed Operational Programme accordingly and re-submit it for approval.

Thereafter, the member state shall submit its Operational Programme to the EC which shall adopt a decision approving it as soon as possible, but no later than four months after the re-submission.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding priorities he has identified for the allocation of grants from the European Fisheries Fund for the period January 2007 to December 2013; and if he will make a statement. [157251]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Fisheries Fund identifies priority axes for funding which, for England, have been provisionally classified as follows:

Priority axis—England

	Priority axis	
1.	Adaptation of the Community fishing fleet	Low priority
	(e.g. decommissioning and other fleet restructuring/effort management measures as well as skills development, retraining for alternative occupations and early retirement. Also vessel modernisation and engine replacement).	Target: more stocks within safe biological limits year by year, during 2007-13.
2.	Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products	Low priority
	(e.g. investment in aquaculture, inland fishing, and processing and marketing. Consideration is given to the environment, safety, working conditions and both public and animal health).	Target: to increase profitability and sustainability and improve environmental standards in the UK aquaculture sector between 2007-13.
3.	Measures of common benefit	High priority
	(e.g. measures of common interest with a broader scope than those normally undertaken by private enterprises. So this can include protection and development of the marine environment, promotion of port facilities, new markets and pilot projects including partnerships between scientists and industry. Also covered are improving quality, promoting more selective fishing methods and upgrading skills).	(Emphasis on marine protection and partnership projects rather than capital works).
		Target: to encourage responsible fishing that helps to safeguard the marine environment.
4.	Sustainable development of fisheries areas	Medium priority
	(e.g. assistance for the sustainable development of fisheries areas and improvements to the quality of life in such areas. Areas eligible for funding are being selected and have to implement a local strategy which seeks to implement the objectives of the CFP taking particular account of socio-economic effects. Funding can support measures taken to maintain economic and social prosperity, develop jobs, promote the coastal environment and promote co-operation between fisheries areas).	(Measures under axis 1-3 are applicable under axis 4 for the selected fishing areas and for Convergence areas will be given a high priority).
		Target: employment diversification in fishing areas consistent with regional policy priorities.

Priority axis—England

These will be finalised in light of responses to the consultation on the draft UK Operational Programme.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the UK Strategic Plan in relation to the European Fisheries Fund for the period January 2007 to December 2013. [157252]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK National Strategic Plan for Fisheries describes the UK fisheries sector and UK objectives and priorities for fisheries between 2007 and 2013. It covers catching, aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing. The UK has to draft this document to demonstrate to the European Commission that it has clear strategic objectives for managing fisheries and on which to base its priorities under the European Fisheries Fund.

We are planning to submit the UK National Strategic Plan to the European Commission as soon as possible, pending its finalisation.

Flood Control

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what frequency was assigned to the recent floods in the Thames and Severn catchments on the basis of the existing modelling; what changes have been made to the flood frequency modelling since those events; and if he will make a statement. [157234]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's Midlands and Thames Regions are working to assess the frequency of the flooding at key locations. It is expected that final results will be available in the Midlands Region by mid-December.

The Environment Agency's initial findings are that the July 2007 flooding at Gloucester had an annual probability of 0.5 per cent. in any one year (1 in 200 year return period).

The return period (or frequency of flooding) has yet to be calculated for the recent floods on the Thames. However, tributaries of the River Thames such as the River Evenlode, the River Windrush, the River Ock

and the River Loddon, experienced the highest recorded river levels. It is too early to determine the impact of these floods on future probability analysis, but they will be fully accounted for in any new river modelling work.

Floods

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of *(a)* sea level rise, *(b)* storm occurrence and *(c)* subsiding land mass on calculations of flood risk. [154413]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's 2004 Foresight Future Flooding report took a long-term view of national flooding and coastal erosion risks to 2100. It estimated that future climate change, together with increased economic wealth which increases losses, could lead to potentially significant increases in future risk by the end of this century.

The Government advise the operating authorities to factor climate change effects into the design of present-day river and coastal defences. An allowance should be made for acceleration of sea level rise, as a result of climate change already locked in to the global system, from the current 2.5-4 millimetres (mm) a year to 13-15 mm a year by the end of the century, depending on location. As part of a precautionary approach, this advice also includes predicted land level changes as very gradually the south east of England has been lowering and the north of the country rising since the last ice age. Such guidance for flood and coastal erosion risk management activities has been provided since 1989 and is kept under review (most recently revised in October 2006).

Sensitivity tests are also recommended for a 20 per cent. increase in the river flows as a result of climate change. Increases in rainfall intensity are also recommended in planning guidance (PPS25) for new urban drainage.

On storm occurrence, the scenarios to be published by the UK Climate Impacts Programme in 2008 are expected to provide further insight into changes that may occur over the next century and these will be taken into account in future guidance.

Hares: Conservation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Game Conservancy Trust on plans to conserve the mountain hare. [155944]

Joan Ruddock: The new list of UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species and Habitats contains 65 habitats and 1,149 species, including the mountain hare. A large number of groups, and in excess of 500 individual experts in total, were involved in the production of this list. It is impossible, therefore, for me to meet with specific conservation groups to discuss individual species. Instead, the UK Biodiversity Partnership as a whole is considering how to take forward the conservation of species and habitats on the new list.

Inland Waterways: Pollution

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1380W, on Inland Waterways: pollution, what records, other than those relating to consented discharges, the Environment Agency keeps of the potential sources of pollution. [154078]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency holds a range of information on potential sources of pollution. These include the Pollution Inventory which covers information from approximately 2,000 industrial sites on chemical releases, including those to controlled waters.

Operator Pollutant Risk Appraisal information is used to assess the environmental risk of Environment Agency regulated sites. The Compliance Classification scheme shows the sites which have failed to comply with permit conditions.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reasons the *(a)* Marine Bill and *(b)* Draft Marine Bill was not included in the 2006 Queen's Speech; and if he will make a statement; [157238]

(2) whether a *(a)* Marine Bill and *(b)* Draft Marine Bill will be included in the 2007 Queen's Speech; and if he will make a statement; [157239]

(3) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* Cabinet colleagues on the inclusion of a (i) Marine Bill and (ii) Draft Marine Bill in the 2007 Queen's Speech; and if he will make a statement; [157240]

(4) what priority he has given to the inclusion of a *(a)* Marine Bill and *(b)* Draft Marine Bill in the 2007 Queen's Speech; and if he will make a statement. [157242]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are firmly focused on meeting their commitment to introduce a comprehensive Marine Bill in this Parliament. Proposals have been developed for a Bill that covers a broad and complex set of marine issues spanning many different interests and which, in some cases, break completely new ground.

The Government's draft legislative programme states that we are considering publishing a draft Marine Bill in the next session of Parliament—we are working to do this in early 2008. Publishing the Marine Bill in draft will allow us to get the legislation right and lead to a better Bill.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) has regular discussions on a range of issues with the Prime Minister and Cabinet colleagues.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on *(a)* the issuing of offshore consents and *(b)* a Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [157241]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn) and the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Hutton) meet regularly to discuss matters of mutual interest, including the Marine Bill. Discussions about offshore consents took place during the preparation of "A Sea of Change: a Marine Bill White Paper".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Trafficked Children

16. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional resources she plans to make available to those local authorities offering refuge provision and special support to child victims of trafficking uncovered by Pentameter II. [157292]

Mr. Coaker: Children rescued within Operation Pentameter will be referred to the local authority which has duties to safeguard all children who are at risk of harm and accommodate those in need. The NSPCC and ECPAT will be on hand to offer specialist advice on the needs of child trafficking victims.

Inward Migration

17. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the number of *(a)* legal and *(b)* illegal immigrants arriving in the UK in the last 12 months. [157294]

Mr. Byrne: The latest information on non-EEA nationals granted leave to enter the United Kingdom relates to 2006 and shows that a total of 12.9 million such persons were granted leave to enter the United Kingdom by immigration officers. The majority of these persons, around 94 per cent. (12.1 million), were either: visitors, both ordinary and business; passengers in transit; or passengers returning after a temporary absence abroad.

No Government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who have entered the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case.

Remembrance Day

18. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on her negotiations with the Royal British Legion on arrangements for Remembrance Sunday parades in 2007. [157296]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not had any negotiations with the Royal British Legion on arrangements for Remembrance Sunday Parades in 2007. However I can assure the Royal British Legion of our support should they encounter any obstacles in making arrangements.

People Trafficking

19. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to tackle human trafficking. [157297]

Mr. Coaker: We have published the UK Action Plan to tackle Human Trafficking which contains 64 action points as part of the UK's end to end strategy to combat this terrible crime. Strategic oversight of the plan's progress will be discussed at the meeting of the Inter Departmental Ministerial Group of which I am chair and on which the Scottish Executive sit.

We have also launched the operational phase of Pentameter 2 to tackle those responsible for trafficking people for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and are implementing the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Human Trafficking.

Police Priorities

20. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to give local communities a greater role in the determination of local policing priorities. [157298]

Mr. McNulty: Neighbourhood policing already gives local communities a role in determining local policing priorities. In addition, monthly local crime information will be provided to allow people to understand better their local community safety issues, and hold the police to account for the way in which they tackle the communities' local priorities. We have also asked Sir Ronnie Flanagan to look at how we can improve both local involvement and local accountability and he will be reporting on this early in 2008.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

21. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to police forces on the use of antisocial behaviour orders in respect of persons under the age of 18. [157299]

Mr. Coaker: Revised comprehensive guidance on antisocial behaviour orders was published in August 2006. This is part of the toolkit we have provided to all antisocial behaviour practitioners in England and Wales to tackle antisocial behaviour. ASBOs are just one of those important tools.

Police Numbers: Bournemouth

22. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on police manning numbers in Bournemouth. [157300]

Mr. McNulty: At 31 March 2007, there were 315 police officers and 36 police community support officers in Bournemouth. Total staffing levels in Dorset have increased by 35 per cent. since 1997.

Community Policing

23. **Patrick Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to further develop community policing. [157301]

Mr. McNulty: We remain committed to Neighbourhood Policing—which is very much a shared endeavour between the police service, local agencies and the community. We have already signalled our intention to put Neighbourhood Policing at the heart of Neighbourhood Management and as part of that we will also consider pooled and participatory budgets.

Fingerprinting: School Pupils

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the use by police of pupils' fingerprint data collected by schools; and if she will make a statement. [157282]

Meg Hillier: Using the data collected by schools would not meet the investigative needs of the police or the evidential requirements of the criminal justice system.

Schools are recording only an algorithmic representation of the fingerprint and not the fingerprint itself.

The algorithmic records held by schools are not compatible with the national automated fingerprint system used by police forces.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts were *(a)* made and *(b)* breached in each of the last five years. [157381]

Mr. Coaker: Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys carried out by the Respect Task Force of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003. The Home Office recently issued updated and comprehensive guidance for practitioners on the use of ABCs.

Airguns: Licensing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* meetings she has had with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Executive and *(b)* discussions her Department has had with the Scottish Executive on proposals to (i) introduce restrictions on the use of airguns and (ii) require licensing of all new sales of airguns; and if she will make a statement. [156841]

Mr. Coaker: The misuse of air weapons in Scotland was one of a number of issues raised when I met with the Cabinet Secretary on 19 July.

The Government are determined to tackle the problem of misuse wherever it takes place and have taken action to tighten up the legislative framework. We worked closely with Scottish Ministers to include provisions in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 which require businesses selling air weapons to register with the police as firearms dealers and to complete sales face-to-face; increase to 18 the age limit for buying and possessing air weapons; and make it an offence for any person to fire an air weapon across the boundary of premises.

These measures have only recently come into force and should be given time to take effect before further changes in the law are contemplated. We shall continue to work with Scottish Ministers to ensure communities across the country are protected from all aspects of firearms misuse.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individuals issued with control orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 have had their financial assets frozen; [156300]

(2) how many individuals have been subject to control orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005; [156301]

(3) how many individuals issued with control orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 have absconded; [156302]

(4) what proportion of individuals who have been issued with control orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 are British citizens. [156303]

Jacqui Smith: 30 individuals have been subject to control orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. Of these, 11 are British citizens. Seven of the 30 individuals have absconded—including an individual who is now in police custody. One of the 30 individuals has had their assets frozen.

Crime: Homophobia

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in ensuring that homophobic crimes are dealt with in a sensitive manner. [156757]

Mr. Coaker: In March 2005 we worked with the Association of Chief Police Officers to produce a tactical guide for tackling all hate crime including homophobic hate crime.

In December 2006 we issued further guidance to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships, specifically aimed at helping practitioners tackle hate crime including homophobic hate crime.

We are currently working to update both of these, which both emphasised the importance of dealing with victims of these crimes in a sensitive manner, and we will be developing further good practice from projects funded through the Victims Fund to tackle hate crime. Through this fund we allocated over £100,000 to projects tackling homophobic hate crime.

Extradition: Russia

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British citizens were extradited to Russia in each of the last five years. [154576]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office (Meg Hillier), of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1843W.

Firearms: Crime

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to reduce gun crime since June 2007. [155049]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Government have an ongoing programme of work to tackle gun crime, focusing on the themes of:

Policing—ensuring the police are equipped to tackle gun crime.

Powers—giving the police and courts the powers to deal with offenders.

Prevention—empowering communities to work with local agencies to take action to prevent gun crime and gang culture, and offering support to parents to challenge their children's behaviour.

Nevertheless, there is more that can be done. It was announced on 9 September that the Government, working with the police, other delivery partners and communities, would be taking forward a programme of targeted work in the local areas facing the greatest challenges with respect to gangs and gun crime. The Tackling Gangs Action Programme will focus on neighbourhoods in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool. Jon Murphy, of Merseyside Police, has been seconded to head up a special team taking forward this work, which will report to a new cross-Government ministerial task force chaired by the Home Secretary.

The task force met for the first time on 19 September and committed to take forward a range of action including using the local area agreement framework to highlight work on guns and gangs at local level; improved data sharing; development of diversionary activities through sport, music and arts; improving measures for witnesses. The on-going programme of work is also informed by the Home Secretary's round table on guns, knives and gangs, which has met nine times since 2003, most recently on 26 June. A further meeting is being planned.

An additional £1 million has been allocated for this work.

The Government have also asked Ken Jones, President of the Association for Chief Police Officers (ACPO), for a report on the scale and nature of the problem in relation to guns and gangs, and proposals for what more the Government, the police and other agencies can do to improve the situation.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines she has issued on the use of fixed penalty notices. [154716]

Jacqui Smith: My Department issued in April 2006 "Revised Guidance on the Operation of the Fixed Penalty System for Offences in Respect of a Vehicle". The document is available on the Home Office website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/road-traffic.html

Overall policy in respect of fixed penalty notices is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Straw).

Forensic Telecommunications Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will make a statement on the theft of the telephone evidence database from Forensic Telecommunications Services Ltd.; [155644]

(2) what assessment she has made of the potential value to terrorist groups of the stolen telephone evidence database from Forensic Telecommunication Services Ltd.; [155798]

(3) what discussions officials from her Department have had with Forensic Telecommunication Services Ltd. regarding the security of data processed; [155799]

(4) when her Department last made an assessment of the security procedures of Forensic Telecommunication Services Ltd.; [155800]

(5) how much the Government spent on the services of Forensic Telecommunication Services Ltd. in each year for which records are available; [155801]

(6) which Government Departments and agencies had data compromised during the database robbery from Forensic Telecommunication Services Ltd.; and when were those agencies informed of the theft; [155802]

(7) whether her Department has communicated with any foreign governments regarding the theft of the telephone evidence database from Forensic Telecommunication Services Ltd. [155803]

Mr. McNulty: On 7 August, offices belonging to the Forensic Telecommunication Services Ltd. in Kent were burgled and computer equipment was removed. That equipment has since been recovered in a police operation. When recovered, an examination of the server referred to by my right hon. Friend was carried out. That examination indicates that the server was not accessed and that no data was compromised. One individual has been arrested in connection with the burglary and I understand this offence has been considered as part of his sentencing. I have asked the chief constable of Kent to write to my right hon. Friend directly regarding this matter.

Home Office officials have been kept informed, as a matter of routine, but have had no direct involvement in this incident. Individual Departments and the police make their own arrangements for handling their protectively marked assets according to relevant security manuals and procedures.

Genetics: Databases

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have their DNA details stored on a database. [157295]

Meg Hillier: 317,015 under-18s and 132,465 under-16s had a record on the National DNA Database on 30 September 2007.

Homophobia: Prosecutions

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work her Department is undertaking to tackle homophobic crimes. [156447]

Mr. Coaker: This Government take all hate crime including homophobic hate crimes very seriously. We have identified five priorities for tackling hate crime:

Increasing reporting

Bringing more offences to justice

Increasing confidence that hate crime will be taken seriously

Using local and national data to understand better the nature and extent of hate crimes

Tackling repeat victimisation.

This June the Government made £250,000 available through the victims fund to tackle hate crime and support victims. Over £100,000 of this money has been awarded to tackling homophobic and transphobic hate crime.

Since April 2007 we have asked the police to flag homophobic and other hate crimes so we can better understand the nature and extent of homophobic hate crime. The Race for Justice Steering Group works to bring more hate crime offences to justice, including homophobic hate crimes. In December 2006 we produced guidance to community safety practitioners to help them tackle homophobic hate crime.

We are also planning to amend the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill to provide for offences to tackle the incitement of hatred on grounds of sexual orientation.

Illegal Immigrants: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals residing illegally in the UK were charged with criminal offences in each year since 2002. [156306]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested regarding the immigration status of those arrested or charged with a criminal offence is not collated centrally by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform or the Crown Prosecution Service, and as such this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to answer the letter of 12 July from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ewmid Hasan Abdulla; [156906]

(2) when she plans to answer the letter of 6 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. E. Abdulla. [156907]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 11 October 2007.

Money Laundering

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to tackle international money laundering. [157293]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have a comprehensive strategy in place to seize criminal assets and to combat money laundering, with over £300 million recovered over the last three years. We will continue to work closely with our European and international partners, and with industry, to provide global solutions to a global problem.

North Yorkshire Police: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on funding for North Yorkshire police in 2008-09. [157709]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office will announce a Provisional Finance Settlement on the level of funding for the police for the CSR years, 2008-09 to 2010-11, with the local government finance settlement in late November/early December as in previous years.

Passengers: Terrorism

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passengers have been charged with *(a)* terrorist and *(b)* other offences following security checks on departing passengers at (i) Heathrow, (ii) Gatwick and (iii) Stansted in each of the last 12 months. [156322]

Mr. McNulty: Information on charges or convictions arising from stops at ports of entry could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Statistics detailing the number of individuals charged under the terrorism legislation are available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Police Community Support Officers

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there are in each basic command unit. [156668]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is published in the Supplementary Tables of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 13/07 "Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2007". A copy is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1307add_tab.xls

Police: Casualties

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers have been injured in the line of duty in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [156474]

Mr. McNulty: The numbers of assaults on police officers are available, and are published each year in the Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) Annual Report. The total numbers of assaults have

been given. The vast majority of these assaults are categorised as minor and no injury. The HMIC Annual Reports can be downloaded from the following link:

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/inspect_reports1/annual-reports/

The available data are for 1999-2000 to 2004-05 only, and have been given in the following table. The percentage of police officers injured in the line of duty cannot be accurately determined from the available data.

Assaults[1] on police officers 1999-2000 to 2004-05[2,3]

Force	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Avon and Somerset	405	332	336	366	493	296
Bedfordshire	97	125	94	74	117	106
Cambridgeshire	160	154	118	151	168	149
Cheshire	239	225	219	352	391	339
City of London	44	44	62	43	48	53
Cleveland	13	342	258	59	67	63
Cumbria	103	85	80	120	111	95
Derbyshire	278	232	241	290	230	228
Devon and Cornwall	311	224	256	326	318	333
Dorset	168	132	156	197	131	165
Durham	221	291	304	241	221	136
Dyfed-Powys	89	112	122	134	104	141
Essex	170	210	225	260	375	395
Gloucestershire	143	176	123	149	147	170
Greater Manchester[4]	941	975	874	935	—	1022
Gwent	205	191	340	181	209	178
Hampshire	385	374	177	502	543	408
Hertfordshire	160	159	169	194	171	185
Humberside	265	244	188	261	196	130
Kent	292	282	363	367	374	393
Lancashire[5]	294	318	296	331	462	521
Leicestershire	218	236	235	212	202	305
Lincolnshire	128	118	167	168	166	198
Merseyside	520	119	147	10	182	165
Metropolitan police[6]	1,391	—	1,438	1,898	2,349	2,614
Norfolk	294	354	171	226	182	208
Northamptonshire[7]	189	138	136	149	109	98
Northumbria	513	530	538	691	39	240
North Wales	104	106	111	91	96	111
North Yorkshire	104	118	111	125	240	279
Nottinghamshire	422	316	174	392	109	234
South Wales[8]	317	405	893	1,042	704	712
South Yorkshire	198	212	209	164	192	163
Staffordshire	429	207	179	146	119	158
Suffolk	129	127	170	161	185	195
Surrey	140	233	175	223	225	256
Sussex	402	397	284	186	330	416
Thames Valley	142	288	320	316	313	269
Warwickshire	142	151	156	204	250	256
West Mercia	373	264	252	245	227	206
West Midlands[9]	941	1,865	1,097	1,264	1,112	910
West Yorkshire	665	699	1,021	781	856	889
Wiltshire	108	146	112	137	165	124

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under Sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[3] HMIC did not publish a force breakdown of assaults prior to 1999-2000. HMIC have advised that assaults data will no longer be published in their Annual Report and that the data for 2004-05 is the last series of these data to be published.

[4] Greater Manchester was not able to provide data in 2003-04.

[5] Lancashire was not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

[6] Metropolitan police was unable to provide data in 2000-01 and was unable to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

[7] Northamptonshire was not able to separate serious and other assaults from 1999-2000 to 2002-03.

[8] South Wales was not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 1999-2000.

[9] West Midlands was not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Police: East Midlands

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on police force collaboration in the East Midlands. [157084]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* We welcome the progress being made on collaboration in the East Midlands, the approach being taken by the five constabularies and their police authorities and their commitment to working together. Collaborative working is key to delivering the necessary improvements in protective services and offers opportunities for efficiency gains. I announced in a written ministerial statement on 17 July 2007, *Official Report,* columns 13-14WS, that we will be supporting 10 separate initiatives by police forces and authorities, including one in the East Midlands, to demonstrate joint working solutions in a range of protective services. The demonstration site in the East Midlands will build on existing collaborative work and help develop a shared body of knowledge that the police service as a whole will benefit from.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet representatives of the East Midlands Strategic Board to discuss the consultation on the police grant funding formula. [157422]

Mr. McNulty: I met the chief constables and police authority chairs from the East Midlands on 6 September. We will take account of all written representations received in response to the consultation on police grant formula.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the East Midlands Strategic Board's submission to the consultation on the police grant funding formula. [157423]

Mr. McNulty: The consultation period closed on 10 October. We will take account of all representations received in reaching final decisions on the police grant settlement for the CSR years.

Prison Service: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to transfer establishments from the Immigration Estate to Her Majesty's Prison Service; and if she will make a statement. [156977]

Mr. Byrne: There are no immediate plans to use or transfer any part of the immigration detention estate to prison use.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Ministry of Justice on the use of the Immigration Detention Estate for the housing of prisoners; and if she will make a statement. [156978]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office and the Ministry of Justice hold regular discussions on a range of estate issues.

There are no immediate plans to use or transfer any part of the immigration detention estate to prison use.

Prisoners: Genetics

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report,* column 498W, on prisoners: genetics, of the 5,400 prisoners identified as not having a profile on the database why no more than 3,722 subsequently had a sample taken. [155193]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The report cited in the 16 April 2007, *Official Report* column 498W, is from 2003. It used a comparison of prisoner records with the Police National Computer (PNC) and the National DNA Database. As many identity profiles were not exact, it was necessary for methodological reasons to undertake manual checking within individual prisons to confirm matches. Due to the "snapshot" nature of the study some of the prisoners had been released by the time sampling teams reached the prison in which they had been held.

There are good reasons for believing that those in prison now are on the DNA database. Police powers to take and retain DNA were extended in 2001 and 2003 so that DNA could be taken from anyone arrested for a recordable offence.

Since 2000, forces have received funding, first through the DNA Expansion Programme and then through general Police Grant, enabling them to take DNA samples from all eligible individuals. It is now standard procedure to take DNA and fingerprints in the custody suite when someone is arrested.

Stop and Search

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton of 12 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 977W, on stop and search, what the equivalent figures for each individual police force area were in each year since the introduction of the Terrorism Act 2000. [156480]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* Information on stop and searches and resultant arrests under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 from 2001-02 to 2004-05 by police force is given in the following tables. Statistics for 2005-06 will be available in the last quarter of this year.

Searches of vehicles[1] and occupants, and pedestrians under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000[2] and resultant arrests[3], by police force area, England and Wales, 2001-02 to 2004-05

	2001-02			2002-03		
	Total searches	Resultant arrests	Percentage of arrests	Total searches	Resultant arrests	Percentage of arrests
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—

Searches of vehicles[1] and occupants, and pedestrians under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000[2] and resultant arrests[3], by police force area, England and Wales, 2001-02 to 2004-05

	2001-02			2002-03		
	Total searches	Resultant arrests	Percentage of arrests	Total searches	Resultant arrests	Percentage of arrests
Bedfordshire	8	—	—	31	1	3
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	387	4	1	320	7	2
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	20	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	129	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	238	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	7	—	—
Gloucestershire	36	—	—	898	3	0
Greater Manchester	36	1	3	509	12	2
Hampshire	12	—	—	294	8	3
Hertfordshire	4	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	257	7	3	141	29	21
Lancashire	—	—	—	155	—	—
Leicestershire	136	—	—	45	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
London, City of	3,495	100	3	4,644	107	2
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	4,071	74	2	23,441	199	1
Norfolk	2	—	—	5	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	8	—	—	110	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	263	—	—	105	2	2
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	3	—	—
Surrey	2	1	50	67	1	1
Sussex	1,077	2	0	351	3	1
Thames Valley	—	—	—	900	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	5	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	36	7	19
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	18	1	6
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	7	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10,186	189	2	32,087	380	1

	2003-04			2004-05		
	Total searches	Resultant arrests	Percentage of arrests	Total searches	Resultant arrests	Percentage of arrests
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	6	2	33	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	11	6	55	6	1	17
Cheshire	6	—	—	1	—	—
Cleveland	3	—	—	7	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	42	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	231	5	2	17	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	989	5	1	3,741	20	1
Gloucestershire	1,356	3	0	—	—	—

	2003-04			2004-05		
	Total searches	*Resultant arrests*	*Percentage of arrests*	*Total searches*	*Resultant arrests*	*Percentage of arrests*
Greater Manchester	858	4	0	1,755	18	1
Hampshire	713	30	4	1,763	33	2
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	14	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	13	—	—	195	4	2
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	9	2	22	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
London, City of	7,276	164	2	6,506	139	2
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	19,692	244	1	15,621	167	1
Norfolk	8	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	381	9	2
North Yorkshire	92	—	—	198	2	1
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	3	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	129	2	2	943	13	1
Sussex	593	3	1	2,648	35	1
Thames Valley	207	7	3	115	5	4
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	11	—	—	2	—	—
West Midlands	155	5	3	1	—	—
West Yorkshire	216	2	1	26	2	8
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	3	1	33	1	—	—
South Wales	1,200	6	1	1,835	7	0
Total	33,822	491	1	35,776	455	1

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants.
[2] The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001.
[3] Includes arrests under the Terrorism Act, arrest for terrorist related matters and other serious crimes.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Source:
RDS-OCJR.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of persons were stopped and searched under the Terrorism Act 2000 *(a)* at airports, *(b)* on London Underground and *(c)* at train stations in each of the last 10 years. [156483]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* Information on the percentage of those stopped under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and the location of those stops and searches is not available.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets the Government have set in relation to stop and search by police officers in England and Wales. [156484]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The use of stop and search powers is an operational matter for individual officers based on individual circumstances. Therefore, there are no Government targets on the exercise of these powers by police officers.

Crime: Detection Rates

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate was in 2006-07 for *(a)* theft and handling stolen goods, *(b)* fraud and forgery, *(c)* criminal damage, *(d)* violence against the person, *(e)* sexual offences, *(f)* robbery and *(g)* all violent crime, calculated by the methodology used to calculate the figures presented in Table 7.03 of Crime in England and Wales 2004-05. [156589]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is given in the table and relates to all detections for recorded crime. The Home Office now concentrates on publishing detections data in terms of sanction detections rather than all detections. Sanction

detections provide a more meaningful comparison of individual force performance and some forces have made a policy decision to significantly limit their use of non-sanction detections in recent years.

A number of changes have also been made in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that for police recorded crime there are separate violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery categories but these is no longer a combined total 'violent crime' category.

Recorded crime: Detection rate percentages by offence group, police force area and region 2006-07

Percentage

	Theft and handling stolen goods	*Fraud and forgery*	*Criminal damage*	*Violence against the person*	*Sexual offence*	*Robbery*
Cleveland	25	41	14	63	44	23
Durham	21	45	16	64	44	30
Northumbria	35	61	21	70	44	31
North East Region	29	54	18	67	44	28
Cheshire	21	26	13	52	33	26
Cumbria	28	44	18	64	46	34
Greater Manchester	16	30	12	55	34	19
Lancashire	29	30	20	61	43	39
Merseyside	21	19	11	55	40	20
North West Region	20	28	14	57	38	21
Humberside	18	27	13	49	26	19
North Yorkshire	21	49	19	70	44	26
South Yorkshire	21	27	12	54	33	30
West Yorkshire	22	30	16	54	32	28
Yorkshire and the Humber	21	30	15	54	32	27
Derbyshire	18	33	15	49	29	22
Leicestershire	21	19	15	47	27	25
Lincolnshire	21	35	13	57	30	26
Northamptonshire	20	27	14	60	43	19
Nottinghamshire	14	24	13	54	41	14
East Midlands Region	18	26	14	52	34	19
Staffordshire	24	33	18	65	34	25
Warwickshire	18	29	14	58	29	18
West Mercia	26	45	17	65	34	31
West Midlands	19	30	13	47	30	20
West Midlands Region	21	33	15	54	31	21
Bedfordshire	15	25	13	51	34	12
Cambridgeshire	17	36	11	55	24	18
Essex	24	28	19	69	36	24
Hertfordshire	20	27	14	57	34	25
Norfolk	23	47	14	56	33	16
Suffolk	19	33	16	65	38	27
Eastern Region	20	31	15	60	33	20
London, City of	20	63	32	66	29	20
Metropolitan Police	10	16	12	31	28	14
London Region	11	16	12	31	28	14
Hampshire	15	18	10	44	25	27
Kent	20	30	16	49	29	18
Surrey	17	63	15	59	40	32
Sussex	19	37	17	57	30	21
Thames Valley	15	18	15	49	26	20
South East Region	17	29	14	50	28	22

Recorded crime: Detection rate percentages by offence group, police force area and region 2006-07

Percentage

	Theft and handling stolen goods	*Fraud and forgery*	*Criminal damage*	*Violence against the person*	*Sexual offence*	*Robbery*
Avon and Somerset	17	27	13	42	26	19
Devon and Cornwall	20	39	14	48	28	22
Dorset	19	42	16	57	38	27
Gloucestershire	31	29	17	56	30	30
Wiltshire	18	29	14	55	27	16
South West Region	20	32	14	49	29	21
Dyfed-Powys	29	60	25	66	38	43
Gwent	24	27	16	63	37	22
North Wales	36	51	26	82	35	34
South Wales	16	29	13	54	33	27
Wales	22	38	18	65	35	27
England and Wales	18	28	15	51	32	18

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding was made available to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary in each year since its establishment. [156349]

Malcolm Wicks: The then Department of Trade and Industry provided the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA) with £6 million as working capital on its set-up in April 2005.

£3 million was then made available to the CNPA for 2006-07, and a further £3 million for 2007-08, for capital spending. To date, £1 million only of this funding for 2006-08 has been drawn upon. Capital costs will be recovered by the CNPA through depreciation charges. The costs of the CNPA and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary are met by the civil nuclear operating companies to whom policing services are provided.

Details of the operating costs of the CNPA can be found on the CNPA's website at: www.cnpa.police.uk/funding and within the CNPA's annual report and accounts, also available on the website.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many arrests were made by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and how many of these resulted in successful prosecutions. [156350]

Malcolm Wicks: In the 2004-05 Crime Year, officers of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) made three arrests, of which one resulted in a successful prosecution and one resulted in a caution being given.

In the 2005-06 Crime Year, CNC officers made seven arrests, of which four resulted in successful prosecutions and two resulted in cautions being given.

In the 2006-07 Crime Year, CNC officers made three arrests, of which one resulted in a successful prosecution and one resulted in a caution being given.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on training for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and how much is proposed to be allocated in each of the next five years. [156351]

Malcolm Wicks: The costs of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary are met by the civil nuclear operating companies to whom policing services are provided. Training costs for the Constabulary are as follows:

	£
2005-06	2,848,000
2006-07	3,083,000
2007-08	[1]3,791,000
2008-09	[2]3,768,000
2009-10	[2]3,601,000
2010-11	[3]3,709,000
2011-12	[3]3,820,000

[1] forecast
[2] budget
[3] modelled

Energy Supply

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from energy suppliers on their programmes of assistance to vulnerable consumers; and if he will make a statement. [156371]

Malcolm Wicks: Meetings have been held or are to be held with representatives of Centrica, Scottish Power, Npower, Powergen, Scottish and Southern Energy and EDF at both ministerial and official level to discuss their programmes of assistance to vulnerable consumers.

Energy Supply: Rural Areas

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many rural households in England are in fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [156373]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2004, 325,000 households in rural areas were in fuel poverty. These households accounted for around a quarter of all households in fuel poverty in that year.

Energy Supply: Disadvantaged

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how he plans to determine whether the corporate social responsibility assistance provided by each energy supplier to help vulnerable consumers is adequate and proportional; and if he will make a statement. [156361]

Malcolm Wicks: A range of factors are being taken into account in considering the corporate social responsibility assistance provided by each energy supplier to help vulnerable consumers, drawing on the evidence in Ofgem's review of supplier's voluntary initiatives to help vulnerable customers. Major factors include the level of assistance delivered to vulnerable customers relative to the size of the supplier and the overall price level offered by the supplier.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has set a deadline for energy companies to put into place the programmes of assistance described at paragraph 2.1.21 of Meeting the Energy Challenge—A White Paper on Energy; and if he will make a statement. [156362]

Malcolm Wicks: No deadline for the introduction of programmes of assistance has been set. However, companies will need to indicate a commitment by the end of October 2007 to put in place any further programmes of assistance, so that decisions can be taken as to whether powers should be taken in the Energy Bill in line with the Energy White Paper.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which consumer groups will be targeted by the winter 2007-08 cross-Government communications campaign on energy-related assistance for vulnerable and low-income households. [156374]

Malcolm Wicks: The campaign is directed towards older, vulnerable and at-risk people to help eliminate fuel poverty and promote independence and well-being, by ensuring that those needing help are aware of, and take advantage of, the advice and financial support available to help keep them and their homes warm.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's policy is on introducing smart meters for gas and electricity in the domestic sector; over what time scale meters are expected to be introduced; and if he will make a statement. [156349]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are currently consulting on proposals on metering and billing set out in the Energy White Paper, including smart meters. The Paper included an expectation that smart meters would be universally rolled out within 10 years, and the current consultation aims to gather stakeholder views on how this objective might best be delivered. The Government will develop their approach on smart metering in the light of information from the consultation and other work being undertaken by the Government, Ofgem, energy suppliers and interested bodies.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what environmental criteria are taken into account before the Export Credits Guarantee Department offers guarantees for projects to commence. [156355]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD undertakes a review of all projects in accordance with its Case Impact Analysis Process, which is available on its website. The environmental impact analysis of each case will vary depending on the nature, scale and location of the project.

It is ECGD's policy that projects should comply in all material respects with the relevant safeguard policies, directives and environmental guidelines of the World Bank Group.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many approved independent and environment consultants the Export Credit Guarantee Department uses when assessing the environmental impact of a project; how these consultants are selected; and what safeguards are in place to ensure their assessments are impartial. [156356]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD has contracts with two environmental consultancy organisations to provide review and advice services on a call-off basis. The contracts were procured through an open competition in line with EU procurement rules. Each contract provides that the consultancy will perform its tasks with all due skill, care and diligence, while informing ECGD of any conflicts of interest.

On projects where ECGD is part of a lender group, an independent environmental consultant may be employed. The usual role is to review on behalf of the lender group the environmental information provided by the project sponsor. Typically, the lender group will agree the terms of reference for the appointment of the independent environmental consultant with the project sponsor, together with a short list of companies to be invited to tender for the appointment. It will review the tender proposals received and will attend tender interviews. The project sponsor will then appoint the independent environmental consultant taking into account the recommendations of the lender group. The appointed independent environmental consultant undertakes the

work on the instructions of the lender group, and its terms of engagement will provide an express duty of care to each member of the lender group.

First Solution Money Transfer

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what action the Insolvency Service has taken to investigate the circumstances in which individuals have lost money as a result of their use of First Solution Money Transfer services; and if he will make a statement. [157833]

Mr. McFadden: In the light of the financial difficulties and apparent closure of First Solution Money Transfer Ltd. in June 2007 Companies Investigation Branch ('CIB') of the Insolvency Service appointed investigators to examine the facts of the case. This investigation is continuing. CIB investigations are confidential and do not result in a publishable report. However, CIB can use the information in a number of ways, for example, to seek to disqualify any directors shown to be unfit to run limited companies or to pass information to a criminal prosecutor or other regulator for action as necessary. It can also petition the court to wind up the company compulsorily and such a petition was presented to the High Court on 2 August. The court has fixed 7 November 2007 to hear that petition. In the meantime the official receiver has been appointed provisional liquidator to preserve and protect remaining assets.

Fuel Poverty

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2068W, on fuel poverty, what definition his Department uses of a proportional programme of assistance; what methodology is used by his Department to measure proportionality; and which of the major six energy companies offer a proportional programme of assistance. [156822]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* A range of factors are being taken into account in considering the corporate social responsibility assistance provided by each energy supplier to help vulnerable consumers, drawing on the evidence in Ofgem's review of supplier's voluntary initiatives to help vulnerable customers. Major factors include the level of assistance delivered to vulnerable customers relative to the size of the supplier and the overall price level offered by the supplier. A supplier is said to be offering a proportionate programme of assistance if it is offering a level of assistance under these measures around or above the industry average at the time of publication of the White Paper. We are currently analysing the findings of the Ofgem update report on "Ofgem's review of Suppliers' voluntary initiatives to help vulnerable customers" published on 8 October to determine which of the major six energy companies offer a proportional programme of assistance.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date Ministers were informed of a separate claims handling agreement between the then Department of Trade and Industry and Vendside in relation to vibration white finger. [156925]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The then Minister responsible was briefed on the development of the CHA between the former Department of Trade and Industry and Vendside with respect to vibration white finger in December 1998 and prior to the agreement being signed off.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date Ministers were informed of a separate claims handling agreement between the then Department of Trade and Industry and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [156926]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The then Minister responsible was briefed on the development of a claims handling agreement between the former Department of Trade and Industry and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers with respect to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in November 1999 and prior to the agreement being signed off.

Industrial Diseases: Solicitors

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria were used in determining solicitors' fees for coal health claims in the *(a)* CSG—the Claimants Solicitors Group—and *(b)* UDM Vendside agreements. [156575]

Malcolm Wicks: Solicitors' fees were negotiated as part of the original Claims Handling Agreement between the Department and the group representing claimants' solicitors. These are court based schemes and the Department was obliged to negotiate all elements including solicitors' involvement and associated costs. At the time, it was felt that the fees reflected fairly the cost of the provision of legal advice to claimants.

The Department negotiated a reduction of legal costs of 16.66 per cent. for claims represented by UDM/Vendside, compared to the group representing claimants' solicitors.

Iran: Overseas Investment

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department is advising UK businesses not to invest in Iranian oil and gas-related projects; and if he will make a statement. [157389]

Mr. Hutton: UK Trade and Investment advice makes clear to British companies the considerable commercial and political risks associated with investment in Iran, including the implications of existing and potential future sanctions. However, investment decisions within the current legal boundaries remain a commercial decision for individual companies.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding has not yet been committed under phase one of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [156259]

Malcolm Wicks: From a budget of £36 million for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 there remains £16,492,729 uncommitted.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been committed under phase one of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each month since the scheme began; and if he will make a statement. [156260]

Malcolm Wicks: As at 30 September, a total of £19,507,271 had been committed under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1. This includes amounts for grant offers, management fees and funds used by the Clear Skies and Solar PV Major Demonstration Programmes to smooth the transition between these programmes and the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

Further details have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Nuclear Power: Reviews

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many responses were received to the Government's nuclear policy consultation document *(a)* on-line and *(b)* in hard copy submissions; what communications his Department has received from non-governmental groups that formally withdrew from the consultation; and what requests were received from interested parties for the release of support documentation for the consultation. [157325]

Malcolm Wicks: The total number of *(a)* online responses received to the Government's nuclear policy consultation document recorded on 11 October was 2,144. *(b)* The total number of hard copy submissions recorded on this date was 623.

Detailed breakdown on communications received from non-governmental groups that formally withdrew from the consultation, and requests received from interested parties for the release of support documentation, is currently not available.

The majority of the responses to the consultation have been made online, but we will take into account any responses that have been delayed for a variety of reasons.

Offshore Industry

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to maintain responsibility for the granting of offshore oil and gas consents under the Petroleum Act 1998; and if he will make a statement. [157244]

Malcolm Wicks: Yes. As the North sea continues to mature it remains a key Government objective to ensure that economic recovery of UK hydrocarbon resources is maximised. The current regulatory regime, which has been refined over the years to encourage exploration and development and attract investment, is ensuring that industry is in the best position to realise the full potential of the UK's oil and gas reserves.

Post Offices: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date he plans to announce the future of Post Office branches in Greater London; and if he will make a statement. [157064]

Mr. McFadden: On 17 May my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Government's response to public consultation on the Post Office network. Now that the Government have announced their decisions it is for Post Office Ltd. to strategically develop the network through around 50 local area implementation plans over the next 15 months.

According to the timetable set out by Post Office Ltd., which is publicly available on its website, the local consultation on the Greater London implementation plan is scheduled to begin in April 2008. Final decisions on closures will be taken by POL in light of responses to the consultation.

Postal Services: Strikes

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to encourage a settlement in the postal dispute that takes into account postal workers' views of changes to working practices and pensions. [156921]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State and I continue to encourage both the Royal Mail and the CWU—Communication Workers Union—to resolve the current dispute through talks. We have done so at a number of meetings and will continue to do so.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* Royal Mail Ltd. and *(b)* the Communication Workers Union at which the resolution of the postal strike has been discussed. [157264]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State and I have had a number of meetings with Adam Crozier and Allan Leighton and Bill Hayes and Dave Ward to discuss the postal dispute and other matters.

Regional Development Agencies: Public Appointments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria are used to appoint individuals to the boards of regional development agencies (RDAs); and how many appointments in each RDA are *(a)* trade union appointments and *(b)* party political appointments. [158118]

Mr. Timms: A detailed specification is drawn up for each role on the Regional Development Agency Boards. These specifications are subject to public consultation with national and regional stakeholders and subsequently set out in the adverts for the posts. Applicants are asked to complete an application form detailing their competencies against the requirements set out in the specification.

Each region has one trade union board member.

There are no party political appointments.

Renewable Energy

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been committed for the installation of *(a)* wind turbines, *(b)* wood fuelled boiler systems, *(c)* solar thermal hot water, *(d)* solar photovoltaics, *(e)* small hydro projects, *(f)* heat pumps, *(g)* ground source heat pumps and *(h)* biomass room heaters and stores under phase one of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (i) in total and (ii) in each region to date in each month since the scheme began; and if he will make a statement. [156258]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the projection is of the percentage of energy in the UK which will be produced from renewables by 2020. [157091]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI projections in May 2007 indicated that by 2020, on the basis of existing policies, renewables would contribute around 5 per cent. of the UK's energy consumption. However, once a decision has been reached on each member state's contribution to the EU's target of 20 per cent. renewable energy by 2020, we will bring forward the appropriate measures, beyond those set out in the Energy White Paper, to make our contribution.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to meet the EU target of 20 per cent. of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. [157199]

Malcolm Wicks: As set out in the Energy White Paper, once a decision has been reached on each member state's contribution to the EU's target of 20 per cent. renewable energy by 2020, we will bring forward the appropriate measures to make our contribution. In the meantime, the measures and market framework set out in the Energy White Paper allow us to make significant progress on this important agenda.

Renewable Energy: EU Law

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will establish a 2020 Renewables Taskforce to assist in meeting the UK element of the EU renewables directive; and if he will make a statement. [154917]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* I do not believe it necessary to set up a new 2020 Renewables Taskforce as the Renewables Advisory Board (RAB) is an existing NDPB set up by government specifically to advise on these issues. RAB exists to improve Government understanding of the obstacles and opportunities for the development and deployment of renewable technologies in the UK and make specific recommendations for this purpose. It is already providing valuable assistance to us in our consideration of the EU 2020 renewable energy target, including by setting up a specific sub-group to advise on the EU 2020 target.

Renewable Energy: Rural Areas

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to help rural households to overcome planning issues to implement alternative sources of energy, including microgeneration, and to become more energy efficient. [156365]

Malcolm Wicks: The Microgeneration Strategy, published in March 2006 commits to tackling the barriers currently preventing widespread uptake of microgeneration, including issues around planning. With regard to planning issues, the Government have consulted on proposals to help householders install microgeneration technologies without the need to apply for planning permission and responses to the consultation are currently being considered. We have also recently published an energy measures report for local authorities compiling information they can use to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their communities.

Research Council: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2042-43W, on the Research Council: finance, what restructuring of British Energy was involved; and if he will make a statement. [157731]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of the restructuring of British Energy (BE) in January 2005, the Government took on responsibility for the company's historic spent fuel liabilities for the period up to the restructuring. The total cost of these liabilities was estimated in the Department's 2006-07 accounts as £2.4 billion, and is based on the forecast payment schedule up to 2029 which is set out in the waste processing contracts agreed between BE, BNFL and the Department.

Payments since 2004-05 have been approximately £200 million per annum, and future payments are estimated to be £200 million (undiscounted at March 2007 prices) per annum until 2013-14. Amounts are then expected to fall each year thereafter until 2029.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with representatives of Royal Mail Ltd. on the proposed changes to the pensions scheme for Royal Mail staff. [157266]

Mr. McFadden: Royal Mail has developed its proposals on the reform of its pension scheme following discussions with the workforces' representatives. My department received a briefing on the final proposals from Royal Mail but has not been involved in their formulation.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the proposed changes to the pensions scheme on Royal Mail staff. [157267]

Mr. McFadden: I have not carried out an assessment of the impact of the proposed changes to the pension scheme on Royal Mail employees. Royal Mail's proposals document sets out how the changes would affect staff.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the pensions holiday taken by Royal Mail Ltd. between 1995 and 2002. [157268]

Mr. McFadden: During the period 1995-2002, the pension fund was in surplus. In 2001, the fund was some 105 per cent. funded. The current deficit arose because of market changes, revised assumptions in life expectancy and the new accounting standards, which required pensions to be reported on company balance sheets. Royal Mail is now addressing the deficit through additional contributions to the fund.

Severn Barrage: Environment Impact Assessment

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the proposed feasibility study for a Severn Barrage energy scheme will include a full environmental impact assessment. [156922]

Malcolm Wicks: The feasibility study will include detailed analysis of the environmental impacts of a barrage including mitigation and compensation aspects and compliance with the relevant legislation.

A full environmental impact assessment would need to be carried out by the developer as part of the planning process.

Union of Democratic Mineworkers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* phone calls and *(b)* meetings took place between (i) Ministers and (ii) civil servants and (A) the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and (B) Vendside in (1) 1998, (2) 1999, (3) 2000 and (4) 2001. [155595]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not keep records of the number of phone calls between the Department and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers or Vendside. Officials have had formal business meetings with UDM/Vendside but we do not have comprehensive records of these, and an accurate number is not, therefore, available. I should also add that similar business meetings have also taken place with the Claimants' Solicitors Group. There is no record of any Minister having met the UDM or Vendside.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many records there are of *(a)* gifts and *(b)* hospitality received by civil servants from his Department and its predecessors from solicitors acting for (i) the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and (ii) Vendside in cases concerning miners' industrial diseases in (A) 1998, (B) 1999, (C) 2000 and (D) 2001. [155596]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department keeps records of gifts and hospitality received but no records match these criteria.

Utilities: Fees and Charges

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what measures he is taking to prevent energy companies demanding payments arising from not recalibrating token meters and subsequently seeking backdated payments; [157103]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the energy regulator on energy suppliers who charge backdated payments after delays in the recalibration of token prepayment meters; and if he will make a statement; [157104]

(3) what measures he plans to take to assist households who have received backdated payment requests by energy suppliers who have not recalibrated token prepayment meters; and if he will make a statement. [157105]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including matters related to prepayment meters, and I have no plans to meet with the energy suppliers on this issue. I welcome Ofgem's commitment to working with suppliers to improve their performance in recalibrating and replacing certain prepayment meters. My Department continues to monitor progress. Ofgem has provided regular updates on suppliers' progress, with the latest published in a letter of 9 August from its Director of Governance. This letter, which included details of the progress on customer communication made by Scottish Power, Powergen and npower, is available from Ofgem's website at:

www.ofgem.gov.uk

TREASURY

Children: Poverty

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to his Pre-Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review Statement on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 167, when he expects the Government's target of a 50 per cent. reduction in child poverty to be attained; [157941]

(2) on the Pre-Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 167, how many children will be lifted out of poverty in each of the years between 2008 to 2010 according to the measure proposed in his statement. [157942]

Jane Kennedy: The Government remain fully committed to their ambition of halving child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020.

Building on Budget 2007 announcements that will lift 200,000 children out of poverty by 2010-11, the pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review announced additional financial support for low income families with children, including an increase in the child element of child tax credit by £50 a year above earnings indexation by April 2010, and substantial increases in disregards for child maintenance in income-related benefits. Together these measures will lift around 100,000 additional children out of poverty by 2010-11.

Coinage

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether all the coins in use in the United Kingdom are manufactured in the UK. [157437]

Kitty Ussher: All legal tender United Kingdom circulating coins are manufactured in the UK by the Royal Mint.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices bought for the use of departmental Ministers have been returned to the Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156730]

Angela Eagle: In the last Parliament, all laptops, mobile telephones and personal digital assistant devices bought for the use of departmental Ministers that are no longer in use by them, have been returned to or purchased from the Department. Information prior to this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the target time is for responses to be made to correspondence sent to HM Revenue and Customs. [156821]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC aims to deal with 80 per cent. of general correspondence within 15 working days of receipt and 95 per cent. within 40 working days.

Inheritance Tax: East Midlands

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of estates that would pay inheritance tax at a threshold of £1 million in *(a)* the East Midlands, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency in Nottinghamshire; [157738]

(2) how many and what proportion of estates paid inheritance tax in *(a)* the East Midlands, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency in Nottinghamshire in the last year for which figures are available. [157739]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for estates paying inheritance tax and amounts of tax paid are not available at local levels.

Inheritance Tax: High Peak

Tom Levitt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in High Peak paid inheritance tax in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [157610]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for estates paying inheritance tax and amounts of tax paid are not available at local levels.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will require the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise to reply to the letter to him of 29 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms K. Cassidy. [156909]

Jane Kennedy: The chairman of HMRC replied to the right hon. Member on 5 October 2007.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 12 July (PO Ref: 1/50946/2007) from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire. [157430]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to the hon. Member on 10 October 2007.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Economic Secretary will respond to the letter of 8 August from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire (PO REF: 5/02368/2007). [157951]

Jane Kennedy: I have done so.

Office of Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the combined budget allocation is for the Office of Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research for each financial year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [157945]

Andy Burnham: The combined budget allocation for the Office of Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (OSCHR) will be £1,465.8 million in 2008-09, £1,567.9 million in 2009-10 and £1,674 million in 2010-11.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much public expenditure there is per capita in 2007-08 for residents of *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England; and what estimate he has made of what the equivalent figures will be once the Comprehensive Spending Review decisions take effect. [157428]

Andy Burnham: The latest available figures for total identifiable public spending per head are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses. In 2006-07 spending per head was £7,121 in England and £8,623 in Scotland. Later figures will be published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses next spring.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letters to HM Revenue and Customs (Tax Credits) from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 12 June, 9 July, 13 August and 4 September on behalf of Mr R. White (Ref: 2007/0600 2871) of Writtle, Chelmsford. [157065]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made to Parliament on 25 July 2007 about the administrative issue which affects some older tax credits awards. HM Revenue and Customs wrote to inform all affected customers about this issue, including the hon. Member's constituent, around the end of August 2007.

Revenue and Customs: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs expects to vacate its tax office premises at Regent House, Darlington. [157441]

Jane Kennedy: Decisions on the future of HMRC offices in the Middlesborough/Stockton urban centre, which includes Regent House in Darlington, are expected to be announced this week. Once an announcement is made HMRC will work with its strategic property partner to agree plans for vacation and release of any offices that will close.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* Mapeley have had made available to them a lease break in respect of Regent House, Darlington. [157581]

Jane Kennedy: The current lease for Regent house, Darlington expires in 2012. However, as part of a wider town centre redevelopment, planning permission for alternative use has been granted. Mapeley are consequently in discussions with the landlord regarding lease surrender terms. Any proposed vacation of the building will be dependent on the successful outcome of negotiations and subject to decisions regarding HMRC's restructured needs.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs plans to announce decisions about the future of Darlington tax office. [157615]

Jane Kennedy: Decisions on the future of HMRC offices in the Middlesbrough/Stockton urban centre, which includes Regent House in Darlington, are expected to be announced this week.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of stamp duty on *(a)* the London Stock Exchange's competitiveness and *(b)* the value of equities; and if he will make a statement. [154282]

Kitty Ussher: The Government keep all taxes and their effects on markets under constant review. However, it is difficult to accurately isolate the effects of stamp duty on either the London Stock Exchange or equity values given the number of other factors influencing it.

The continued long-term growth in both the number of trades completed on the London Stock Exchange and the number of new companies listed highlights that the City of London continues to be a leading global centre for financial services.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of stamp duty on the housing market; and if he will make a statement. [154283]

Kitty Ussher: The Government keep all taxes and their effects on markets under constant review. However, it is difficult to accurately isolate the effects of stamp duty land tax on the housing market given the number of other factors influencing it.

Since 1997 the stability and prosperity of the UK economy has allowed nearly two million more people to become homeowners. Last year in England, 185,000 net additional homes were added to the housing stock, the highest level since 1990.

Surveys: Costs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the marginal cost of *(a)* asking one additional question to all responders and *(b)* computerising the additional data for (i) the British Household Panel Survey, (ii) the Expenditure and Food Survey and (iii) the Labour Force Survey. [156903]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what estimate has been made of the marginal cost of (a) asking one additional question to all responders and (b) computerising the additional data for (i) the British household panel survey, (ii) the expenditure and food survey and (iii) the labour force survey. (156903).

I am unable to answer for the British household panel survey, which is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, and managed by the Institute for Social and Economic Research at Essex University. Contact details for the Institute for Social and Economic Research are available on their website at http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/.

For the ONS expenditure and food survey and labour force survey, the cost of questions can vary quite substantially and it is not possible to provide an average cost or the cost of computerising the additional data. In some cases answers to questions can be derived from other existing questions and in such cases there will only be a small extra cost for computerising the additional data. However, in other cases the cost of adding a new question and computerising the additional data depends on the complexity of the question. New questions may need to be extensively research tested in the field which will lead to much greater costs.

Tax Credit Office: Correspondence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Tax Credit Office will respond to the letters of 26 March and 28 June 2007 from the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire to the Director. [156820]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC have written to the hon. Member on 12 October and very much regret the delay in doing so.

Welfare Tax Credits: Armed Forces

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of the armed services are in receipt of tax credits. [157443]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of tax credit claimants broken down by occupation is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Foreigners

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many children of foreign nationals who are living outside the UK are in receipt of tax credits; and how many received tax credits in each of the last five years, broken down by country; [157541]

(2) how many children of foreign nationals who are living outside the UK are in receipt of child benefit; and how many were in each of the last five years, broken down by country. [157542]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available. For child benefit, the information could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Welfare Tax Credits: Northern Ireland

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases in Northern Ireland are affected by administrative error in HM Revenue and Customs' Tax Credit Office; and if he will make a statement. [156846]

Jane Kennedy: Following my written ministerial statement of 25 July 07, on tax credits administration, HMRC will be reviewing approximately 8,400 awards for claimants in Northern Ireland.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many awards of tax credits were adjusted in-year due to excess payments in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07; whether excess payments are included in the annual supplement on payments figures; what the average value was of the excess payment; what the total amount recovered in-year was; and how many and what proportion of these cases were disputed. [155939]

Jane Kennedy: The aggregate value of overpayments, the number and the distribution of overpaid awards are published annually in 'Supplement on Payments' publications. Figures for 2003-04 to 2005-06, which can be used for calculating the average value of an overpayment in each year, are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Information on the level of overpaid tax credit awards in 2006-07 will not be available until May 2008.

For information on the number of overpaid awards that have been disputed I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 415-16W, and on 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1036-37W.

Information relating to the recovery of overpayments of 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 awards is contained in section 2, table 4, of the Comptroller and Auditor Generals Standard Report in the HM Revenue and Customs 2006-07 accounts, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accounts2007.htm

Information on recovery of overpaid tax credits in 2006-07 will be published in the HM Revenue and Customs 2007-08 accounts, which is due to be released in the summer of 2008.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Young people: Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 16 to 18 and *(e)* 19 to 24 year olds of each social class were not in education, employment or training in each (i) local education authority area, (ii) region, (iii) borough and (iv) parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years. [155624]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Department's estimates of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated by region or local authority level. However, we can give an indication of the number and proportion of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds NEET in 2005 and 2006 at local authority level using data provided by Connexions services, and this is in the tables attached. Information cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency, nor is it available at local

authority level before 2005. Equivalent information is not collected for 19 to 24-year-olds.

Data provided by Connexions services are used to monitor NEET in each local authority area. However, it should be noted that figures are calculated on a different basis from that used in the Department's estimates, and therefore do not give the same totals.

The Youth Cohort Study can provide an estimate the proportion of young people who are NEET according to their parents' occupation. The following table shows the findings of the 2005 survey of 17-year-olds, and relates to young people in England and Wales:

Parental occupation	*Percentage of 17-year-olds NEET*
Higher professional	3
Lower professional	5
Intermediate	7
Lower supervisory	9
Routine	12
Other/unclassified	14
Overall	8

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* former hon. Members and *(c)* Peers who are not members of the Labour Party he has invited to Downing Street since becoming Prime Minister; [157813]

(2) if he will publish a list of all those he has invited to Downing Street since becoming Prime Minister. [157814]

The Prime Minister: Information on official and charity receptions held at Downing street will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Departments: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many full-time members of staff are employed in Number 10 Downing Street; [152246]

(2) how many people are employed in the Prime Minister's Policy Unit; [152247]

(3) how many people are employed in the Prime Minister's Strategic Communications Office; [152248]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many press officers are employed by his Office. [153164]

The Prime Minister: The total number of staff on the No. 10 payroll as at 1 April 2007 is set out in the following table:

	1 April 2007
Prime Minister's Office	215
No10 Policy Unit	9
No10 Strategic Communications Unit	6
No 10 Press Officers	[1]6

[1] This figure includes one secondee from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Figures for 2007-08 will be published after the end of the financial year.

General Election: Costs

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Prime Minister what contingency preparations were made by No. 10 Downing Street for the possibility of a general election being held in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157054]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office today.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister what factors he took into account in deciding when to inform the Secretary of State for Defence of his decision to announce troop withdrawal from Iraq. [157215]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to reply to the letter of 2 August 2007, on fighting poverty, from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire. [157433]

The Prime Minister: My Office replied to the hon. Member on 8 August.

Tony Blair

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he last met Tony Blair. [157791]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

ChangeUp Hubs of Expertise

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the legal status is of the ChangeUp Hubs of Expertise and of any intellectual property or other assets associated with the hubs; [156943]

(2) for what reasons the decision was taken to abolish the ChangeUp Hubs of Expertise; and what input the Office of the Third Sector had in the decision. [156941]

Phil Hope: Six partnerships of national voluntary organisations make up the ChangeUp hubs of expertise. The hubs are partnerships of organisations rather than organisations constituted in their own right, and as such do not have a legal status.

Each of the six hubs has an accountable body that receives and administers funds on the hubs behalf. All of the hubs have protocols setting out governance, legal and financial arrangements between the accountable body and their partnership organisations.

As grant recipients the accountable bodies for the hubs have agreed to terms and conditions for their grant(s) which are governed by English law and the jurisdictions of English courts and include specific conditions relating to intellectual property rights and assets.

Shortly after being set up Capacitybuilders' Board committed itself to a programme of change in the future delivery of national support services (hubs). The board decided to undertake the review following stakeholder feedback on hub performance. The review addressed what local, sub-regional and regional third sector organisations need from a national set of services and what is the best way of delivering on these needs.

Following consultation with the sector Capacitybuilders board have agreed that Capacitybuilders will directly commission the national support programme and identified a range of priority themes.

Capacitybuilders have been established at arms length from the Government, and as such the decision regarding the future delivery of national support services is a decision for Capacitybuilders board. However, the Office of the third sector's interest is in ensuring that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to deliver the ChangeUP 2014 vision, and that capacity building of the third sector is handled in an effective manner.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases were taken to the Civil Service Appeal Board in 2006; and how many of those related to *(a)* dismissals and *(b)* other disciplinary matters. [158229]

Gillian Merron: The remit of the board does not extend to appeals in relation to disciplinary matters which fall short of dismissal.

Statistics on the number of appeals heard in each of the last 10 years can be found in Appendix 3 of each of the board's annual reports. Copies can be found on the board's website at www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk.

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the declared individual political affiliations are of the Civil Service Commissioners. [156719]

Gillian Merron: The Civil Service Commissioners are an independent body. They undertake their role in accordance with their Code of Practice, which includes provisions for handling conflicts of interest. The Code of Practice can be accessed via the Commissioner's website at www.civilservicecommissioners.gov.uk Copies are also available in the Libraries of the House.

Civil Service: Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will amend the Directory of Civil Service Guidance to reflect the new Civil Service code in respect of the requirements of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. [158232]

Gillian Merron: We are in the process of updating the Directory of Civil Service Guidance. The new version will reflect the provisions in the new Civil Service Code.

Departments: Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to improve his Department's arrangements on whistleblowing; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the current policy. [158230]

Edward Miliband: We are reviewing our Whistleblowing policy and will look to adopt good practice from other Departments. Once the policy has been reviewed we will place a copy in the Library.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many receptions have been held by the Cabinet Office since January 2007; on what dates they were held and at which venues; what the purpose was of each; who *(a)* hosted and *(b)* paid for each; what the estimated attendance was of each; and what each cost his Office. [157767]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2W.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155884]

Gillian Merron: The only Cabinet Office campaign currently planned for 2007-08 is to encourage more and better quality nominations of 'local heroes' for official honours. The choice of media for this campaign has not yet been finalised.

My Department has not yet agreed budgets for any communication activity in 2008-09.

General Elections: Costs

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contingency preparations his Office made for the possibility of a general election being held in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157055]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The guidance covering the conduct of official business during a general election was last issued in May 2005. This guidance, and other relevant procedures and processes, are kept under constant review by the Cabinet Office and other relevant departments so that they are ready to be put in place when a general election is called.

Leader of the Opposition: Civil Servants

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what Civil Service support is available to the Leader of the Opposition. [157804]

Gillian Merron: The Directory of Civil Service Guidance sets out the circumstances in which there may be contacts between senior civil servants and members of the Opposition parties. Copies of the Directory are available in the Libraries of the House.

Non-Profit Making Associations

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what budget has been allocated to the commissioning of social enterprise think pieces as announced by the Office of the Third Sector on 8 February. [155626]

Phil Hope: The budget allocated for think pieces in 2007-08 is £50,000.

More information is available at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/social_enterprise_research/think_pieces.asp

Olympic Games: Greater London

Janet Anderson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the Red Arrows will be appearing at the 2012 London Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [158443]

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are to include the Red Arrows in the opening or closing ceremonies of the 2012 Olympics. [158444]

Tessa Jowell: Newspaper claims that the Government have banned or advised against the Red Arrows' involvement in the Opening Ceremony or any other celebrations associated with the 2012 games are completely untrue and unfounded.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for deciding what to include in the Opening Ceremony and other celebrations. No decisions have yet been taken about the content. The Red Arrows have already played a memorable role in the celebrations, when they flew over Trafalgar Square to mark London winning the games.

Voluntary Work

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what definition his Department uses of a volunteering opportunity for the purposes of its policy to promote volunteering. [156940]

Phil Hope: For the purposes of volunteering policies the Cabinet Office defines volunteering and volunteering opportunities as any non-compulsory activity which involves spending time, unpaid, doing something which is of benefit to others (excluding relatives), society or the environment.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children came to events organised with the Portable Antiquities Scheme as part of National Archaeology Week 2007; and if he will make a statement. [156938]

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children came to events organised with the portable antiquities scheme as part of National Archaeology Week 2007; and if he will make a statement. [157361]

Margaret Hodge: Of the people who attended events organised by the Portable Antiquities Scheme as part of National Archaeology Week 2007, *(a)* 4,193 were adults; and *(b)* 3,040 were children. This highlights the excellent work the PAS does in educating people about archaeology.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many finds were *(a)* identified and *(b)* recorded by the portable antiquities scheme as part of National Archaeology Week 2007; and if he will make a statement. [157067]

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many finds were *(a)* identified and *(b)* recorded by the portable antiquities scheme as part of National Archaeology Week 2007; and if he will make a statement. [157367]

Margaret Hodge: During National Archaeology Week 2007, the portable antiquities scheme *(a)* identified 2,331 finds; and *(b)* recorded 659 finds. This highlights the excellent role the scheme is playing in helping us learn more about our past.

Broadcasting Programmes: Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his assessment is of the contribution of public service children's television programmes to children's development of knowledge and understanding of themselves and their environment; and if he will make a statement on future investment in UK commissioning and production of such programmes. [158433]

James Purnell: UK originated children's television programming is a much valued and important part of the UK's broadcasting environment.

The Government recognise that there are challenges to the ability of commercial public service broadcasters to sustain this type of programming. Ofcom issued a

discussion paper on 3 October and the responses received will inform Phase 1 of their Public Service Broadcasting Review, which will be published in spring 2008, and the Government's consideration of the future funding of public service provision.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the 2008 Concessionary Fare National Scheme on tourism in the UK. [156021]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS has made no assessment of the impact of the national bus concessions scheme on tourism.

Casinos

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the written statement of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1-3WS, on casinos, what progress has been made with the review of the introduction of small, large and regional casinos. [157972]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The work that the Secretary of State announced in his written statement of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1-3WS, is now well under way, and the intention is to make a further announcement later this year.

Casinos: Milton Keynes

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a process is available for Milton Keynes to open a casino; and if he will make a statement. [157311]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Milton Keynes is one of the local authorities earmarked by the Government for one of the eight large casino licences permitted by the Gambling Act 2005, following the recommendation of the independent Casino Advisory Panel.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced in a written statement on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1-3WS, that he had written to the local authorities, including Milton Keynes, to put forward for the new casinos, to ask them to confirm whether they still wish to license a new casino.

A further announcement will be made once Ministers have had the opportunity to consider the responses of the local authorities.

Creative Partnerships: Finance

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what changes to the funding of creative partnerships will occur as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [157612]

James Purnell: Although the Department's overall CSR settlement was announced on 9 October we are still finalising detailed allocations to NDPBs and programmes such as Creative Partnerships.

I therefore regret that I am not yet in a position to go into detail about either the programmes' future shape or funding.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156620]

Margaret Hodge: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury issue accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

2005-06

Historic Royal Palaces

2006-07

Big Lottery Fund
Horserace Betting Levy Board
Olympic Delivery Authority
Olympic Lottery Distributor
Olympic Legacy Trust
The Regional Cultural Consortiums
Royal Household

For S4C the Accounts Direction has not changed but a Memorandum of Understanding including the existing accounts direction was issued in May 2007.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156621]

Margaret Hodge: Details of the public bodies for which DCMS was responsible in the financial year 2005-06 can be found in the Cabinet Office publication Public Bodies 2006, copies of which are in the Library and also available online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/publications/pdf/public-bodies/publicbodies2006.pdf

For the financial year 2006-07 the details can be found in the DCMS publication DCMS Public Bodies Directory 2007, copies of this publication are also available from the Library and online at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4BEE00DC-62FF-4F5C-8012-E3B82B915112/0/DCMSPublicBodiesDirectory20072.pdf

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155883]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's projected spending on advertising and promotional campaigns for 2007-08 and 2008-09 with the areas specified is zero.

Digital Broadcasting: Celtic Languages

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to ensure spectrum allocation for *(a)* Gaelic and *(b)* Welsh language service on digital terrestrial television after the digital switchover. [156859]

James Purnell: The BBC announced earlier this year its intention to launch a Gaelic language channel—the Gaelic Digital Service (GDS)—on digital terrestrial television in Scotland, to be run as a partnership between BBC Scotland and Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gaidhlig (Gaelic Media Service). A public value test into this proposed service is currently ongoing.

A Welsh language service—S4C—is already provided on digital terrestrial television in Wales, and multiplex capacity will be available for S4C to continue to provide that service.

At present, therefore, it is intended that both Gaelic and Welsh language services will be provided on digital terrestrial television after digital switchover.

Horse Racing: Drugs

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) decision to revoke the accreditation of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory in Newmarket as a WADA-accredited laboratory; and what assessment he has made of and the implications of this decision for drug-testing in the UK. [158207]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In light of discussions with UK Sport, the UK's National Anti-Doping Organisation, the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory (HFL) had its World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accreditation revoked in September.

The development of UK Sport's intelligence-based testing programme, the aim of which is to use intelligence to target drug tests more effectively, means that UK Sport is unlikely to significantly increase the number of tests it conducts year on year. As a result, UK Sport could not guarantee the number of tests HFL required to make its accreditation status financially viable.

Kings College, the remaining WADA accredited laboratory in the UK, will undertake analysis of all UK Sport's anti-doping programme tests.

UK Sport advises that this is an approach endorsed by WADA, and will have no adverse implications for drug-testing in the UK.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to reply to the letter of 16 August (departmental reference 76546) from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire. [157429]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A reply to this letter was sent on 8 October 2007.

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was awarded to national museums and galleries in each year since 1995-96 in constant 2007-08 prices. [156708]

Margaret Hodge: Grant in aid for the 14 national museums since 1995-96 in constant 2007-08 prices is set out in the following table.

	Grant in Aid (£ million)
1995-96	285.66
1996-97	269.90
1997-98	254.03
1998-99	245.53
1999-2000	259.17
2000-01	263.88
2001-02	276.24
2002-03	293.20
2003-04	297.07
2004-05	292.67
2005-06	299.07
2006-07	313.65
2007-08	323.55

National Film Theatre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 30 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1594W, on the National Film Theatre, if he will make a statement about future plans for the library of the British Film Institute. [156246]

Margaret Hodge: The British Film Institute (BFI) is in advanced discussions with the Higher Education sector to achieve a long term strategic partnership that would provide much needed new investment and improved access to the BFI's world leading collections, including the Library, as a significant research resource.

Such a partnership would also enable the BFI to develop international scholarship, training and teaching programmes which fully utilise the Nation's film and TV collections.

In the longer term, it is intended that the partnership would continue by establishing a centre of research excellence within a National Film Centre being proposed by the BFI for 2012-13.

Sports: Safeguarding of Vulnerable People Act 2006

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the effect of the Safeguarding of Vulnerable People Act 2006 on sport. [158226]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups (SVG) Act 2006 will help safeguard children and vulnerable adults participating in sport by

introducing a strengthened vetting regime for those working in this area, and barring those who are unsuitable.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department of Health and the Home Office have been working with a wide range of stakeholders including sports bodies and organisations and will continue working with the Department for Culture Media and Sport and sports bodies to help inform Regulations and prepare for implementation of the SVG Act. The Government are planning to consult later in the year on a number of detailed elements of the scheme.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if his Department will revise the Child Protection in Sport guidance to ensure more structured risk in school sport. [157985]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit and Sport England have developed Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children with the National Governing Bodies. These standards positively promote the adoption of safe practice that minimises the risk to young people participating in sport including school sport.

Stonehenge

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to improve tourism, parking and traffic facilities at Stonehenge. [155776]

Margaret Hodge: A new Stonehenge Visitor Centre, allowing for improved tourist facilities, was granted planning consent on 29 March 2007, subject to conditions, one of which is that improvements to the A303 proceed, as set out in the published Stonehenge Improvement Order 2000.

The Government are currently considering the findings of the inter-Departmental Review of Options for the A303 Stonehenge Improvement and will make an announcement shortly on the way forward.

Television: Scots Gaelic Language

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on which *(a)* channels and *(b)* broadcasting platforms the Gaelic language television channel will be available; and if he will make a statement. [150315]

James Purnell *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* The Gaelic Media Service is working with the BBC with the aim of establishing a high-quality Gaelic Digital Service which is capable of meeting the needs and expectations of the Gaelic audience in the most cost-effective way possible.

The expectation is that the GDS would be launched on satellite and digital cable. The aim would be to make it available on digital terrestrial after the completion of digital switchover. Prior to digital switchover the new service would be showcased in the limited slot available for TeleG.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds have been allocated by HM Treasury to his Department to promote British tourism; and how these funds have been affected by the pre-Budget report. [157970]

James Purnell: My right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced the overall DCMS settlement on 9 October. The funding allocation for tourism will be announced shortly, following discussion with VisitBritain.

Tourism: Manpower

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many economists in his Department work specifically on tourism. [155611]

Margaret Hodge: We have a small central team of four economists who provide support for the department as a whole including tourism policy. It is difficult to estimate precisely how much time is spent specifically on tourism policy but officials estimate that it is less than one full time member of staff.

VisitBritain: Offices

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list the locations of overseas offices of Visit Britain. [155650]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain currently operates 19 offices in the following countries: Brazil—Sao Paulo, Canada—Toronto, US—New York and Los Angeles, Australia—Sydney, Hong Kong, India—Delhi, Japan—Tokyo, Singapore, UAE—Dubai, Belgium—Brussels, Denmark—Copenhagen, France—Paris, Germany—Berlin, Hungary—Budapest, Italy—Milan, Netherlands—Amsterdam, Spain—Madrid and Sweden.

VisitBritain have representatives in the following countries: China—Beijing and Shanghai, India—Mumbai and Bangalore, Malaysia—Kuala Lumpur, South Korea—Seoul, Thailand—Bangkok, South Africa—Johannesburg, Greece—Athens, Norway—Oslo, Portugal—Lisbon and Russia—Moscow.

They have a virtual presence in the following countries where there is a localised website and they undertake activities and campaigns which are managed from/by the countries listed in brackets: Argentina and Mexico (managed from Brazil); New Zealand (managed from Australia); Austria (managed from Germany); Czech Republic (managed from Hungary); Finland (managed from Sweden); Poland (managed from Hungary); Switzerland (managed from Germany).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to persuade the United States of America to reverse its policy of spraying the poppy crop in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [157427]

Dr. Howells: Counter narcotics policy and implementation, including opium poppy elimination, is the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan. We work very closely with the US to support the Afghan government on implementing their National Drug Control Strategy. The Government of Afghanistan opposes the use of aerial and ground based spraying to eradicate opium poppy.

The US government advocate spraying as one method of implementing non-negotiated forced eradication. But in their counter narcotics strategy for Afghanistan, published in August, they recognise that

"no herbicidal spray program would be implemented without the consent of the Government of Afghanistan".

The UK continues to support the piloting of ground-based spraying, subject to the agreement of the Afghan government, to test its efficacy and impact. It should be well explained to local populations and targeted in areas of Afghanistan where the security situation permits and there is good access to legal livelihoods for farmers. At present, we judge that the disadvantages of aerial spraying outweigh the benefits. We have made our position clear to both the Afghan government and the US.

Afghanistan: Resettlement

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-8WS, on Iraq: assistance to locally employed staff, whether he has considered extending the scheme to Afghanistan. [157539]

Dr. Howells: Locally engaged Afghan staff working for our armed forces and civilian missions in Afghanistan have made an invaluable contribution to the UK's efforts to help support the spread of security, stability and development in their country. I acknowledge their contribution with gratitude. But given the difference in circumstances between them and their colleagues in Iraq, there are no plans for a similar scheme of assistance.

Bolivia: Official Visits

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role his Department played in the visit to the UK of Bolivian opposition Senator Oscar Oritz Anselo; which elements of Mr. Anselo's programme have been organised by his Department; what future meetings are planned between his Department and Bolivian opposition leaders; what steps he is taking to develop relations with the democratically-elected President and government of Bolivia; and how many visits his Department has facilitated to the UK on the part of Bolivian government representatives since May 2006. [157947]

Dr. Howells: Through our Embassy in La Paz, Senator Oscar Ortiz asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to make parliamentarians, and others with an interest in Bolivia, aware of his visit to the UK. We responded to this request and also informed the Bolivian Embassy in London.

Since May 2006 the FCO has not facilitated any visits to the UK on behalf of the Bolivian government. However, Bolivian Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca made a private visit to the UK in June 2007. The FCO was informed of this visit shortly beforehand and responded to a request to arrange a call on my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Sport (Mr. Richard Caborn).

Our relationship with Bolivia continues to develop. We maintain a dialogue with the Bolivian Government and also welcome engagement with all political parties in Bolivia. The UK works with the Bolivian government, both bilaterally and through the EU, on a range of issues, including counter-narcotics, climate change, security sector reform and energy. The UK also supports projects in these and other areas in Bolivia, at national and local government level.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what oversight his Department has of the granting of belongers status, or other comparable status, by overseas territory governments to people from outside the territories; and if he will make a statement. [157206]

Meg Munn: Responsibility for immigration, including the granting of Belonger, or equivalent, status, has been devolved to overseas territories governments. The Government would not seek to intervene in the immigration policy of a territory unless it breached constitutional or other legal provisions or international obligations such as those in the European Convention on Human Rights, or it was leading to serious concerns about the good governance of the territory.

British Overseas Territories: Internet

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for variations in the web content of the websites of overseas territories on *(a)* the list of Human Rights Conventions with which they are expected to comply and *(b)* details of the gross domestic product per head of population. [156912]

Meg Munn: The Overseas Territories Governments are responsible for the material on their websites and for keeping it up to date. This includes the provision of information on human rights conventions and of data such as gross domestic product per capita.

Chechnya: Politics and Government

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the security situation in Chechnya. [157570]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The North Caucasus, particularly Chechnya, remains fragile and vulnerable to human rights abuses.

Although some reconstruction work is now being undertaken, much of the Chechen Republic's urban and rural infrastructure was destroyed in fighting between separatist rebels and federal troops allied with local forces loyal to Moscow. While large-scale military

action by federal troops has now ceased, low intensity fighting involving local Chechen forces continues. There are frequent reports of explosions and shootings in the republic and elsewhere in Southern Russia carried out by rebel groups.

Russian forces claim to have eliminated many rebel groups and fighters, including the death of Shamil Basayev in 2006. But long-term security in the region is undermined by poor social and economic conditions as well as credible reports of widespread human rights violations by all sides.

Instability within Chechnya has affected neighbouring republics, particularly Ingushetia and Dagestan, where the frequency of violent incidents has increased in recent years. The situation in Chechnya and the wider North Caucasus remains an issue of importance in our on-going bilateral and EU discussions with Russia. With EU partners, we raised the latest developments in Chechnya with the Russian Government at the EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations on 3 October 2007.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from Russia on co-operation with United Kingdom authorities to address the conflict in Chechnya; and if he will make a statement. [157571]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government, with EU partners, regularly discusses the situation in Chechnya with the Russian authorities, including in the context of both UK-Russia and EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations. I welcome the recent commencement of the €20 million technical assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States Programme, agreed under the UK's EU presidency in 2005, which demonstrates that Russia and the international community are willing to work together to address the root causes of instability which drive conflict in the region. Through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool, we are working with local partners in the region, among other things, to build capacity and conflict awareness among local officials, police and other law enforcement bodies, as well as to help train Russian prison officers.

David Manning: Gifts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list all gifts made by former UK Ambassador to the United States Sir David Manning to members of the US Administration which were financed by the UK Exchequer; what the cost was of each gift; and if he will make a statement. [157824]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by my hon. Friend is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156734]

Mr. Jim Murphy: This information is not held centrally, as Foreign and Commonwealth Office departments are responsible for their own budgets. To collate the information requested by the hon. Member would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Legalisation Office

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of retaining a Legalisation Office of his Department in central London and opening a second Legalisation Office outside London to deal with postal and DX applications for legalisation. [155922]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Legalisation Office needs to move from its current premises in the Old Admiralty Building because of security concerns, lack of space as the business expands, and the FCO's commitment to move positions out of London under the Lyons relocation programme. The additional space for an expanded operation will allow us to improve significantly the current levels of service.

We explored options outside central London, notably Birmingham, Milton Keynes and Bristol, to allow for the much needed expansion of the office, an improved office environment and a readily available employment pool, while at the same time addressing security concerns and our Lyons relocation commitments.

Our initial assessment pointed to moving the entire operation outside London. FCO officials met with a group of representatives from a cross-section of the Legalisation Office's customers in the FCO on 3 July. Following this initial meeting and subsequent discussions with the Confederation of British Industry and our key stakeholders, we received strong representations for a continued presence in London.

We have now completed our consultation exercise and will be shortly announcing our decision on the future location of the Legalisation Office.

Departments: Parliamentary Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* written guidance and instructions provided to officials in his Department who draft parliamentary answers and *(b)* the declaration required to be made by such officials on submitting drafts for ministerial approval; and if he will make a statement. [156849]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested by my hon. Friend will be placed in the Library of the House. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are not required to sign a declaration on submitting draft answers for ministerial approval.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's *(a)* administrative expenditure, *(b)* other current expenditure, *(c)* grant expenditure, *(d)* operating appropriations in aid (A in A), *(e)* capital and *(f)* non-operating A in A outturn, broken down in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms, was for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [156000]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Part II: Subhead detail table in Main Estimates for each year provide outturn data for one prior year, but this is only broken down to net total resources for each section in the table.

There are no other published documents that provide a near-cash/non-cash breakdown of this data, though the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) publication (copies of which are in the Library of the House) provides a useful near-cash/non-cash Departmental Expenditure Limit split (see Tables 1.6, 1.7 and 2.1 of PESA 2007 for data for years 2001-02 to 2007-08). However, we have been able to provide a near-cash/non-cash split against administrative expenditure, other current expenditure, grant expenditure, operating appropriations in aid (A in A), capital and non-operating A in A outturn, broken down in near cash and non-cash terms, for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07 by taking information from our 2006-07 Resource Accounts along with data that underlies our Departmental Report common core tables. This is set out as follows:

Voted expenditure[1]

£000

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Admin						
Near-cash	555,613	558,153	599,134	636,571	643,857	697,714
Non-cash[2]	105,924	145,329	107,053	108,970	170,832	173,664
Other current	551,973	637,936	650,864	678,795	769,687	846,834
Grants	327,125	324,866	376,561	504,656	548,358	545,723
Operating A in A	-165,693	-172,016	-204,322	-244,630	-327,235	-338,417
Capital	95,565	113,428	76,696	85,341	94,490	162,178
Non-operating A in A	-40,898	-17,257	-26,875	-11,674	0	-57,256

[1] Data for 2001-02 to 2005-06 is taken from information underlying our Departmental Report common core tables and is on an internally consistent basis. Data for 2006-07 is taken from Resource Accounts. Resource Accounts and Parliamentary Supply Estimates do not completely reflect Treasury re-classifications to previous years. Detailed notes on re-classifications have been provided in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Reports for the years in question.

[2] All non-cash for the above years has been counted as administrative expenditure.

Data taken from Supply Estimates or resource accounts is not necessarily readily compatible with a near-cash/non-cash split, which is used only within the Departmental Expenditure Limit budgetary controls applied by HM Treasury. The ability of Departments to provide such a split will depend partly on the extent of reconciliations between voted provision and budgetary limits.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155896]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is unable to provide the forecast expenditure details on advertising and promotional campaigns for the next two financial years, as the information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Temporary Accommodation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2004W, on departments: temporary accommodation, for how long the British Embassy Officer has been living in a tent in Juba, Sudan; and for what reason secure permanent accommodation has not been available for this officer hitherto. [156400]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: The officer has been living in a tent on the secure compound of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Juba since November 2005. Permanent accommodation that meets Government security requirements has not been available. Local infrastructure is poor due to the impact of the prolonged civil war there. Many other Juba-based international staff are similarly accommodated. As the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn), noted in her answers to the hon. Member on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2004-05W, and *Official*

Report, column 2008W, our Embassy in Khartoum is pursuing options to upgrade the officer's accommodation and aims to have a solution in place by early 2008.

Egypt: Religious Freedom

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Egyptian Government in relation to the protection of Eman Muhammad el-Sayed. [157261]

Dr. Howells: Eman Muhammed el-Sayed is a 26-year-old Egyptian woman, who converted from Islam to Christianity. We understand that she was arrested by the Egyptian police in July 2007 but released shortly afterwards.

We are aware of the case, but have seen nothing to suggest that Eman is currently in danger and are therefore not planning any representations at this stage.

EU Countries: Overseas Workers

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of UK citizens working in each of the other EU countries. [153311]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold this information centrally. The hon. Member may wish to refer to "Brits Abroad", an independent report from the Institute for Public Policy Research, sponsored by the FCO, which considers the question of British emigration in the context of global migration trends. A copy of this report will be sent to the hon. Member and copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal advice the Government has requested regarding the inter-governmental conference mandate. [154591]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government received legal advice on all aspects of the mandate for an EU Reform Treaty. As I made clear in my evidence session with the House of Lords Select Committee on 12 July, the Government do not disclose their legal advice, as has been the case with previous Governments for all previous inter-governmental conference processes.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what extent the Government's decision on whether a referendum should be held on the Constitutional Treaty, or whether that Treaty should be rejected, is dependent upon the Government's judgment that the Treaty incorporates the red lines requested by the Government. [158018]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe is now defunct. The Inter-Governmental Conference Mandate records the agreement of all 27 member states that "the constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called 'Constitution', is abandoned".

The new Reform Treaty is significantly different to the old Constitution. And we have secured extra safeguards on each of the UK's red lines set out by the Government ahead of the June European Council.

Following my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's oral evidence session with the Foreign Affairs Committee on 10 October, he agreed to write to the Committee and place in the Library of the House a document setting out how the Government's red lines are reflected in the latest draft of the Reform Treaty.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his response of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 151, on the Constitutional Treaty, to the Supplementary Question from my hon. Friend the Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) if he will clarify which legal draft he referred to; what the status is of the Opinion of the European Commission (COM(207) 412 final) in that regard; which parts of the draft to which he referred differ from the draft document on which the European Scrutiny Committee has already reported; what the evidential basis is for his statement that the new draft makes clear the direction in which Europe is moving and respects the red lines which the Government has requested; and to what extent that evidential basis is derived from the changes incorporated into the new document. [158022]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The legal draft that my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary referred to on 9 October during Foreign and Commonwealth Office oral questions was the draft Reform Treaty in English, including Protocols, Declarations and Preamble (references CIG 1/1/07 REV, 1 CIG 2/1/07 REV 1, CIG 3/1/07 REV 1, CIG 4/1/07 REV 1). These were sent to the Clerks of the Foreign Affairs Committee, European Scrutiny Committee, Lords EU Select Committee and placed in the Libraries of both Houses on Friday 5 October.

The European Scrutiny Committee has reported on the Inter-Governmental Conference. The Government will provide a full response to all points raised in the Committee's report.

Following my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's oral evidence session with the Foreign Affairs Committee on 10 October, he agreed to write to the Committee and place in the Library of the House a document setting out how the Government's red lines are reflected in the latest draft of the Reform Treaty.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of Turkish troops deployed on the border with Iraq. [149627]

David Miliband: We have no confirmed reports of the exact number of Turkish troops deployed along the Turkish border with northern Iraq. We are aware of counter-terrorist operations by the Turkish security forces close to Turkey's border with northern Iraq. A

series of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) attacks have targeted military and civilian targets in Turkey recently, causing a significant number of fatalities. We utterly condemn the attacks carried out by the PKK, as we do all acts of terrorism. The PKK, its aliases and its subgroups have been proscribed in the UK and listed as terrorist organisations in the EU.

Iraq: Resettlement

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28W, on Iraq: assistance to locally employed staff, whether the scheme will apply to *(a)* non-Iraqi nationals who work, or have worked, for UK armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq since 2003 and *(b)* staff who work, or have worked, for UK armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq who have been injured as a result of, or in the course of their service regardless of whether they meet the other criteria. [157540]

Dr. Howells: I respect and value the brave and selfless service of all our staff, including those from third countries. But their circumstances are qualitatively different from those of our Iraqi local staff. We have no plans to extend the assistance scheme to those not covered by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS.

Official Hospitality: Lancaster House

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost of *(a)* hospitality and *(b)* entertainment at Lancaster House was in each of the last 10 years. [156613]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Government Hospitality (GH), part of Protocol Directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, manages all official hospitality or entertainment offered by Government Ministers at Lancaster House. GH has a remit to work for all Government Departments, and organises events in government houses, official residences and outside venues. GH organises on average 60-65 per cent. of its events each year at Lancaster House. GH does not maintain separate records of expenditure per venue. In each of the last 10 years GH's overall expenditure has been as follows:

	Amount (£)
1997-98	342,131
1998-99	407,399
1999-2000	406,486
2000-01	489,994
2001-02	552,924
2002-03	623,892
2003-04	705,384
2004-05	869,418
2005-06	809,529
2006-07	592,592

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek assurances from the Hamas leadership in Gaza that there will be no restrictions on the activity of Christian groups. [156804]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned about the safety of Gaza's Christian community. We call upon Hamas to uphold their commitment to preserve the status of that community. But we have no contact with Hamas at present, due to their failure to respect the Quartet's three principles: non-violence, recognition of Israel and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap.

We condemn the recent killing of Rami Ayyad, the manager of a Christian bookshop in Gaza. Our thoughts are with Mr Ayyad's family.

Poland: Homosexuality

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Polish government's stance towards homosexuality, with particular reference to the status of gay teachers and professors in the Polish education system and the proposed education bill; what representations he has made to his Polish counterparts on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [154183]

David Miliband: The Polish Education Ministry's proposed plans to introduce a law banning the promotion of homosexuality in schools were never put to the Polish parliament. The proposal was heavily criticised in the liberal media and by gay rights groups in Poland.

Quebec: Anniversaries

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans for the UK *(a)* to take part in and *(b)* be represented at next year's 400 year celebrations in Quebec; and if he will make a statement. [157436]

Dr. Howells: Officials are in contact with the Governments of Canada and Quebec about the 400th anniversary celebrations. UK participation/involvement is under discussion.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that Ugandan Government ministers and members of parliament recently *(a)* wore military uniforms and *(b)* carried out military drills during their annual retreat at the Kyankwanzi ideological training school; and if he will make a statement. [153787]

David Miliband: We are aware of the above mentioned reports but cannot confirm their accuracy. We know that the Kyankwanzi National Leadership Institute remains in use and is responsible for preparing senior government officials.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the Ugandan government's treatment of

opposition leader Dr. Kizza Besigye and the extent of its surveillance of Dr. Besigye; and if he will make a statement; [153788]

(2) what representations he has made to the Ugandan authorities on the trial for treason of the opposition leader Dr. Kizza Besigye; what his policy is on whether this trial will affect relations with the Ugandan government at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in November; and if he will make a statement. [153789]

David Miliband: We continue to monitor closely the People's Redemption Army trial, in which Dr. Besigye is a defendant, and are pushing for a swift and fair conclusion of the legal process. We regularly raise this issue with senior members of the Ugandan government, through the local Heads of Mission Partners for Democracy and Good Governance Group in Kampala. In the course of our regular dialogue with the government of Uganda, we continue to press them, including at senior political level, on the need to engage with the opposition and develop further multi-party democracy.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November will be a chance for the Ugandan government to demonstrate the progress they are making on good governance to a watching world. We continue to urge the Ugandan government to make the best use of this opportunity.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Alarm Notification Orders

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have instituted alarm notification orders. [158017]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA does not keep records of which local authorities (LAs) have instituted alarm notification areas. It is up to the LA to decide if it will designate an area as an alarm notification order. It is not compulsory to inform DEFRA.

Council Housing: Home Information Packs

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will require all social housing to have energy performance certificates; and if she will make a statement. [157438]

Yvette Cooper: The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive requires member states to introduce Energy Performance Certificates on construction, sale or rent of all buildings, including social housing by January 2009. The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007 (SI 991) implement these requirements in England and Wales.

Council Tax

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average *(a)* Band D council tax bill and *(b)* overall council tax bill was in (i) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in each year since 1979. [156663]

John Healey: Details of the average area band D council tax bill and the council tax requirement in each billing authority area in Cornwall, the South West and England in each year since 1993-94, when council tax was introduced, are shown in the following tables. It is not possible to show the data by parliamentary constituency.

Average area band D council tax

£

	Caradon	*Carrick*	*Kerrier*	*North Cornwall*	*Penwith*	*Restormel*	*South West*	*England*
1993-94	557	574	573	547	552	549	555	568
1994-95	577	596	542	576	576	578	582	580
1995-96	581	601	579	588	592	584	601	609
1996-97	608	629	617	617	614	600	625	646
1997-98	644	653	657	659	642	626	667	688
1998-99	703	712	715	718	696	698	731	747
1999-2000	745	756	757	759	738	740	782	798
2000-01	817	829	825	833	805	808	836	847
2001-02	861	872	880	874	848	848	886	901
2002-03	941	952	957	958	921	925	978	976
2003-04	1,058	1,055	1,065	1,068	1,030	1,028	1,113	1,102
2004-05	1,135	1,136	1,144	1,144	1,101	1,104	1,186	1,167
2005-06	1,192	1,193	1,200	1,201	1,152	1,159	1,236	1,214
2006-07	1,252	1,253	1,257	1,259	1,207	1,216	1,294	1,268
2007-08	1,315	1,314	1,316	1,322	1,263	1,276	1,352	1,321

Council tax requirement

£000

	Caradon	Carrick	Kerrier	North Cornwall	Penwith	Restormel	South West	England
1993-94	14,787	17,407	16,006	14,247	11,494	15,451	899,528	8,912,000
1994-95	15,439	18,122	15,290	15,412	12,181	16,143	955,902	9,239,065
1995-96	15,745	18,287	16,386	15,685	12,597	16,484	986,072	9,769,057
1996-97	16,597	19,314	17,478	16,560	13,181	17,191	1,044,486	10,459,848
1997-98	17,693	20,090	18,676	17,826	13,896	18,123	874,215	11,241,185
1998-99	19,502	22,234	20,689	19,634	15,433	20,651	1,249,363	12,332,055
1999-2000	20,766	23,969	22,168	21,167	16,641	22,137	1,353,435	13,278,188
2000-01	22,918	26,342	24,445	23,417	18,175	24,503	1,462,371	14,199,535
2001-02	24,454	28,088	26,287	24,916	19,212	26,071	1,564,988	15,245,215
2002-03	26,914	30,845	28,844	27,836	21,171	28,930	1,744,900	16,647,512
2003-04	30,681	34,390	32,641	31,643	24,052	32,692	2,004,385	18,946,271
2004-05	34,284	38,293	36,398	35,705	27,062	36,114	2,123,397	20,298,940
2005-06	36,293	40,736	38,239	38,291	28,377	38,493	2,239,105	21,315,284
2006-07	38,370	43,219	40,346	40,443	29,845	40,880	2,365,570	22,452,813
2007-08	40,628	45,926	42,472	42,812	31,504	43,814	2,487,078	23,608,428

The data are taken from the BR1 and 2 returns completed annually by local authorities and returned to Communities and Local Government; early data are taken from the CIPFA publication, "Finance and General Statistics".

Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to respond to the recommendations in the Communities and Local Government Committee Report on council tax benefits (HC 718); and if she will make a statement. [156695]

John Healey: The Government's formal response to the Select Committee's report on council tax benefit will be published shortly.

Council Tax Benefits: Armed Forces

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will amend the regulations on mandatory council tax discounts to give the spouses or partners of members of the armed forces a single person discount while their partner is away on active service overseas. [155704]

John Healey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 25 September 2007 that armed forces personnel deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan who pay council tax, will receive a flat-rate, tax free payment of £140 for a six month tour of duty. The payment is worth around 25 per cent. of the average council tax bill for six months.

The Ministry of Defence intends to widen the scheme to all those deployed on operations and we will continue to liaise with the Ministry of Defence on the feasibility, in the longer term, of a statutory discount scheme.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the foreign trips which *(a)* she and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department has undertaken at cost to the public purse since the creation of her Department; and what the (i) destination and (ii) purpose was of each visit. [155688]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government publish on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 has been published and a nil return was entered for Communities and Local Government.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

First Time Buyers: West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many first-time buyers there were in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* Birmingham, Northfield in the last year for which figures are available. [157713]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on numbers of first time buyers (FTBs) using a mortgage is available from the regulated mortgage survey which is supplied to Communities and Local Government by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. However, as the survey is a sample, data on the number of FTBs is unavailable.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price was for *(a)* a house and *(b)* a house bought by a first-time buyer in (i) the West Midlands, (ii) Birmingham and (iii) Birmingham, Northfield in the last year for which figures are available. [157714]

Mr. Iain Wright: The mean property price for a property and the mix-adjusted mean price for a property bought by a first-time buyer in the West Midlands and Birmingham are as follows.

Mean property price 2006

£

	All buyers	*First time buyers*
West Midlands Region	168,854	128,832
Birmingham	155,424	—

Sources:
HM Land Registry, Regulated Mortgage Survey.

Data on house prices is available from HM Land Registry. Data is unavailable below district level.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (PQ 157713).

Home Information Packs

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the marketing and advertising campaign to promote home information packs and energy performance certificates in the South West Government Office Region; and if she will make a statement. [151588]

Yvette Cooper: By the end of September 2007 the Department will have spent in the order of £169,800 on the publicity and advertising campaign promoting home information packs and energy performance certificates in the south west of England.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home condition reports have been uploaded to the home condition report database. [152543]

Yvette Cooper: Between 6 November 2006 and 16 September 2007, 1,574 home condition reports have been lodged in the home condition report register.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government why energy performance certificates will be valid for 10 years for properties for rent but not for properties for sale. [155684]

Yvette Cooper: We will shortly consult on the appropriate age for an energy performance certificate (EPC).

Homeowners want up-to-date information on what is likely to be one of the most important purchases of their lives. Once they move in they are more likely than tenants to invest in the property especially in the first year after buying. So it is important that they have recent information at their disposal which is why we are proposing EPCs on properties for sale are no more than one year old.

For tenants the EPC plays a different role. Renters are less likely to invest in the property they live in. That is why the current proposal is for the maximum life of an EPC for rented properties to be 10 years.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she expects home information packs to cost more for *(a)* four bedroom homes and *(b)* three bedroom homes than the figures stated previously for an average pack. [155711]

Yvette Cooper: The price of a home information pack is be set by the market, not by Government. A number of home information pack providers are charging a standard rate for all properties regardless of size and location.

The only new cost to the home buying and selling process is the EPC which is providing valuable energy information for the first time and many local authorities have reduced their search charges.

Home Information Packs: Enforcement

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been provided under the new burden principle to local authority building control departments to enforce home information packs and energy performance certificates for new build properties. [156565]

Yvette Cooper: No funding is being provided under the new burden principle to local authority building control departments to enforce energy performance certificates for new build properties because the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998 requires local authorities to set their own charging schemes to recover the cost of their prescribed building control functions. Home information packs are enforced by the local weights and measures authority and not by local authority building control: authorities have been given additional funding to do so.

Home Information Packs: South East Government Office

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of home condition reports commissioned to date in the south-east Government office region; and if she will make a statement. [154570]

Yvette Cooper: 1,562 home condition reports have been lodged in the HCR register to date. The Department does not hold details of the number of home condition reports by Government office region.

Housing: Consultation Papers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the review of the regional spatial strategies before 2011, further to the publication of the Housing Green Paper; and whether this will be undertaken by the regional chambers. [153993]

Yvette Cooper: The eight RSSs which cover England are currently being reviewed and the indicative timetables are as follows.

The task of reviewing the RSSs is being undertaken by the Regional Assemblies and the Secretary of State in accordance with guidance in PPS11.

The Housing Green Paper stated that the revision of existing RSSs, will continue—with subsequent partial reviews if necessary.

North East

Proposed Changes Consultation—autumn 2007

Issue of final RSS—new year 2008

North West

Proposed Changes Published—autumn 2007

Proposed Changes Consultation—autumn 2007/new year 2008

Issue of final RSS—spring 2008

Yorkshire and Humber

Proposed Changes Published—autumn 2007

Proposed Changes Consultation—autumn 2007/winter 2007

Issue of final—spring 2008

East Midlands

Panel Report Published—autumn 2007

Proposed Changes Published—spring 2008

Proposed Changes Consultation—spring 2008

Issue of final—autumn 2008

West Midlands (Phase 1)

Proposed Changes Consultation—September 2007/November 2007

Issue of final RSS—new year 2008

West Midlands (Phase 2)

Draft RSS to SoS—winter 2007

Consultation on draft RSS—winter 2007/spring 2007

EiP—summer 2008—autumn 2008

Panel Report—winter 2008

Proposed Changes Published—winter 2009

Proposed Changes Consultation—winter 2009/spring 2009

Issue of final RSS—summer 2009

East of England

Issue of final RSS—winter 2007

South East

Proposed Changes Published—winter 2007

Proposed Changes Consultation—winter 2007/spring 2007

Issue of final RSS—summer 2008

South West

Panel Report—winter 2007

Proposed Changes Published—spring 2008

Proposed Changes Consultation—spring 2008/summer 2008

Issue of final RSS—autumn 2008

Housing: Databases

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* home condition reports and *(b)* energy performance certificates have been logged on their respective online registers. [153794]

Yvette Cooper: 1,562 home condition reports have been lodged in the HCR Register to date and 37,879 energy performance certificates have been lodged in the CPC Register as of 5 September 2007.

Housing: Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the likely annual number of energy performance certificates that will need to be commissioned for *(a)* Social Homebuy sale, *(b)* New Build Homebuy sales and *(c)* Open Market Homebuy sales. [156563]

Yvette Cooper: At present, energy performance certificates (EPCs) are only required for those properties which also require a home information pack (HIP).

Currently all three or more bedroom properties for sale on the open market, including those bought under open market homebuy, require the marketer of the property to provide a HIP. We will roll out to all properties having taken into account market operation and other factors ensuring a smooth implementation. As new build homebuy properties are also marketed, they will also require an EPC in line with the HIP duties.

Sales under the social homebuy scheme to sitting tenants are not subject to the HIP duties and do not currently require an EPC. As we are still rolling out HIPs, it is not yet possible to make an estimate of the number of homebuy properties that the HIP duties will apply to. HIPs will help first-time buyers who will receive the packs for free, giving them extra support as they try to get onto the housing ladder.

Housing: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was allocated to the Planning Delivery Grant programme in each year of its operation. [157475]

Mr. Iain Wright: The total funding for Planning Delivery Grant was £605 million which can be broken down to:

	£ million
2003-04	50
2004-05	130
2005-06	170
2006-07	135
2007-08	120

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets local authorities will have to meet to receive housing and planning delivery grant. [157674]

Mr. Iain Wright: The mechanism for rewarding housing and planning delivery grant will be subject to a consultation exercise during the autumn.

Housing: Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many A8 accession state nationals have *(a)* obtained a social housing tenancy from a local authority, *(b)* obtained a social housing tenancy from a registered social landlord and *(c)* have purchased social housing from either a local authority or a registered social landlord in each year since 2004; [155994]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2129W, on Housing: Low Incomes, if she will give a break down by region of the number of social lettings let to foreign nationals in 2005-06; [156010]

(3) what estimate she has made of the number of foreign nationals obtaining general needs lettings in 2005-06, broken down by nationality; and what recent estimate she has made of the total number of foreign nationals who are tenants of social housing. [156250]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of foreign national households allocated social housing is collected in the Continuous Recording of Lettings form (CORE). These data are collected on behalf of Communities and Local Government and the Housing Corporation by the Centre for Housing Research at the University of St. Andrews. These data provide information on the "flow" of new tenants entering social housing each year, as well as the movement of existing social housing tenants transferring from other social housing properties. A question on nationality was first introduced for the 2006-07 data collection period.

It is not possible to breakdown the estimate provided in the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2129W, on Housing: Low Incomes further. However, the final year data are scheduled to be published on the CORE website by St. Andrews university by mid November 2007. The link for the CORE website is:

http://www.core.uk

The number of households headed by an A8 accession state national that have obtained a social housing tenancy from a registered social landlord in 2006-07 is 1,268 (based on provisional data). This is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 606. The link for this table is:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/152609

Historically CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords but an increasing number of local authorities are now providing information as well. The number of households headed by an A8 accession state national that have obtained a social housing tenancy from local authorities completing CORE during the 2006-07 period, will be published on the CORE website by mid November 2007.

Currently, information on the number of A8 accession state nationals that have purchased a social housing property from either a local authority or a registered social landlord is unavailable. A question on nationality was only added to the Continuous Recording of Sales form for the 2007-08 collection period. These data will be available for the full year in the 2008 autumn period.

A breakdown of the number of social lettings allocated to households headed by foreign nationals by region and by nationality will be available when the full year data are published on the CORE website in November 2007.

Using the Survey of English Housing (SEH) data, the most recent estimate of the total number of foreign national headed households is 309,000, equivalent to about 8 per cent. of the total social housing stock. This survey information provides details on the "stock" of social housing, as opposed to the "flows" and "movement within" social housing recorded by CORE. The Survey of English Housing (SEH) introduced a question on nationality for the first time in 2005-06. This information is available on the Communities and Local Government website, in Housing in England 2005-06—Table 1.31. The link for this table is:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/HousingEngland0506

Housing: Inspections

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy inspectors will be issued with official identity cards. [154179]

Yvette Cooper: Each Certification and Accreditation Scheme will issue identification cards to its members to use when entering a domestic dwelling to carry out their duties. Householders will have been given the name of the HI/DEA when the appointment would have been made for the inspection.

Housing: Low Incomes

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the ability of key workers in London to buy property in London. [155609]

Yvette Cooper: We do not hold data on the ability of key workers to buy property in London. Any such assessment would be for key worker employers to carry out.

We are doing all we can to help people on modest incomes into housing. Since 2004 we have helped just over 16,000 key workers into a home through the key worker living programme.

Key worker living is one element of the Government's HomeBuy scheme which will expand the opportunity for home ownership to over a 120,000 households by 2010. We expect 30,000 of those helped through HomeBuy to be key workers.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to introduce the Key Worker Living Programme *(a)* in Weston-Super-Mare and *(b)* elsewhere in the South West. [155915]

Yvette Cooper: The Key Worker Living programme is focused on helping key workers in London, the East and the South East of England regions as areas with the greatest recruitment and retention issues.

The Government provide each of the nine English regions with funding for affordable housing and asks the regional housing assemblies (previously the regional housing boards) to recommend how the money should be invested based on regional and local housing priorities. All the assemblies were asked whether they wished to recommend allocating a percentage of their resources to help key workers and only London, the East and South East have done so for the 2006-08 funding period. The South West regional housing board recommended that key public sector workers providing essential public services should be one of the priority groups for low cost home ownership

assistance through the 2006-07 to 2007-08 National Affordable Housing Programme.

From April 2006, key workers have become eligible for all Government funded low cost home ownership schemes alongside social tenants, those on the housing register and priority first-time buyers recommended by regional housing boards around the country. In addition, 50 per cent. of homes provided through the First Time Buyers Initiative, being delivered by English Partnerships, which includes areas outside the South East are also available for key workers.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further steps she plans to take to increase the supply of affordable shared equity and rented family homes in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* other housing hot spots in the North West. [158419]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Green Paper recently announced a 50 per cent. increase in Government investment in affordable homes; at least £8 billion will be spent over the next three years.

In addition the Government committed to deliver at least 25,000 new shared ownership and shared equity homes nationally each year, by 2010-11.

The Government Office for the North West is working with regional partners and stakeholders to develop proposals for a regional equity loans product. Although in its early stages, this demonstrates a commitment to tackle affordability issues in the region.

Furthermore, all housing providers have the opportunity to bid in the Housing Corporation's current investment round for affordable housing. Warrington has the opportunity to bid for Housing Growth Point status, with any bid needing to demonstrate how affordability will be addressed.

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average sale price for a *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three bedroom dwelling was amongst the properties constructed in each area that took part in the design for manufacturer competition. [156600]

Yvette Cooper: Construction of the homes on the 10 sites included in the Design for Manufacture competition is still ongoing.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 628-29W, and the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1890W.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to make changes to the Merton Rule on renewable energy in new developments; and if she will make a statement. [155745]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) today (PQ 155448).

Local Authorities: Audit Commission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the indicators which the Audit Commission collects from local authorities. [155677]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 4 October 2007:

I am writing in response to your parliamentary question asking for a list of the performance indicators collected from local authorities by the Audit Commission.

Although we do have powers to specify performance indicators, we have not used these powers for several years.

However, you will be aware that the Government, through the Department for Communities and Local Government, specifies the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). The Commission collects this information on its behalf and analyses the data.

The attached spreadsheet shows the data returns we collect from councils. As you will see, some indicators have several sub parts and each of this has a data return. In summary we collect:

116 returns for Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) directly from local authorities via our electronic data collection system (EDC);

35 data items for BVPIs directly from government departments/ national agencies as these are part of other returns such as the Performance Assessment Framework for social care; and

27 user satisfaction indicators which are generated by surveys carried out every three years, the last one being 2006/07. Authorities submit the survey responses via a website.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

PI Ref	*Description*	*Service area*
BV 10	Percentage of non-domestic rates collected	Corporate Health[1]
BV 100	Temporary Road Closure	Transport[1]
BV 102	Passenger Journeys on Buses	Transport[1]
BV 106	Percentage of new homes on previously developed land	Planning[1]
BV 109a	Percentage of major planning applications within 13 weeks	Planning[2]
BV 109b	Percentage of minor planning applications within 8 weeks	Planning[2]
BV 109c	Percentage of other planning applications within 8 weeks	Planning[2]
BV 11a	Percentage of top 5 per cent. earners that are women	Corporate Health[1]
BV 11b	Percentage of top 5 per cent. earners from black and minority ethnic communities	Corporate Health[1]
BV 11c	Top 5 per cent. of earners that have a disability	Corporate Health[1]

PI Ref	*Description*	*Service area*
BV 12	Number of working days lost due to sickness absence	Corporate Health[1]
BV 126	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households	Community Safety[1]
BV 127a	Violent crime per 1,000 population	Community Safety[1]
BV 127b	Robberies per 1,000 population	Community Safety[1]
BV 128	Vehicle crimes per 1000 population	Community Safety[1]
BV 14	Percentage of early retirements	Corporate Health[1]
BV 15	Percentage of ill health retirements	Corporate Health[1]
BV 156	Percentage of buildings accessible for disabled people	Corporate Health[1]
BV 161	Employment, Education and Training for Care Leavers	Health and social care - Children[2]
BV 162	Reviews of Child Protection Cases	Health and social care - Children[2]
BV 163	Adoptions of Children Looked After	Health and social care - Children[2]
BV 164	Commission for Racial Equality's code of practice in rented housing	Housing[1]
BV 165	Pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people	Transport[1]
BV 166a	Environmental health checklist of best practice	Environmental Health and Trading Standards[1]
BV 166b	Trading standards checklist of best practice	Environmental Health and Trading Standards[1]
BV 16a	Percentage of disabled employees	Corporate Health[1]
BV 16b	Percentage of economically active disabled community population	Corporate Health[1]
BV 170a	Visits To and Use Of Museums and Galleries: all visits	Culture and Related Services[1]
BV 170b	Visits to and Use of Museums and Galleries: visits in person	Culture and Related Services[1]
BV 170c	Visits to and Use of Museums and Galleries: school groups	Culture and Related Services[1]
BV 174	Racial incidents per 100000 population	Community Safety[1]
BV 175	Racial incidents with further action	Community Safety[1]
BV 178	Footpaths and Rights of Way Easy to Use by Public	Transport[1]
BV 17a	Percentage of black and ethnic minority employees	Corporate Health[1]
BV 17b	Percentage of economically active minority ethnic community population	Corporate Health[1]
BV 181a	KS3 English Performance	Education[1]
BV 181b	KS3 Mathematics Performance	Education[1]
BV 181c	KS3 Science Performance	Education[1]
BV 181d	KS3 ICT Performance	Education[1]
BV 183a	Average length of Stay in bed and breakfast accommodation	Homelessness[1]
BV 183b	Average length of stay in hostel accommodation	Homelessness[1]
BV 184a	Proportion of LA homes which were non-decent	Housing[1]
BV 184b	Percentage change in the proportion of non decent homes	Housing[1]
BV 187	Condition of Surface Footway	Transport[1]
BV 194a	Key Stage Two Performance (English): Level 5	Education[1]
BV 194b	KS2 Mathematics Performance	Education[1]
BV 195	Acceptable Waiting	Health and social care - Adults[2]
BV 196	Acceptable Waiting Time for Care Packages	Health and social care - Adults[2]
BV 197	Teenage Pregnancies	Health and social care - Children[2]
BV 198	Drug-Users in Treatment	Health and Social Care - Adults[2]
BV 199a	Local Street and Environmental Cleanliness – Litter and Detritus	Environment[1]
BV 199b	Local Street and Environmental Cleanliness - Graffiti	Environment[1]
BV 199c	Local Street and Environmental Cleanliness - Fly-posting	Environment[1]
BV 199d	Local Street and Environmental Cleanliness - Fly-tipping	Environment[2]
BV 200a	Plan-making: Development Plan	Planning[1]
BV 200b	Plan-making: Milestones	Planning[1]
BV 200c	Plan-making: Monitoring Report	Planning[1]
BV 201	Direct Payments of Benefits	Health and social care - Adults[2]
BV 202	Number of people sleeping rough on a single night	Homelessness[1]
BV 203	The percentage change in average number of families in temporary accommodation	Homelessness[1]
BV 204	The percentage of appeals allowed against the authorities decision to refuse planning applications	Planning[1]
BV 205	Quality of service checklist	Planning[1]
BV 212	Average time taken to re-let council dwellings	Housing[1]
BV 213	Number of homelessness cases prevented	Homelessness[1]
BV 214	Repeat homelessness	Homelessness[1]
BV 215a	Rectification of street lighting faults (non-DNO)	Transport[1]
BV 215b	Rectification of street lighting faults (DNO)	Transport[1]
BV 216a	Identifying contaminated land	Environmental Health and Trading Standards[1]
BV 216b	Information on contaminated land	Environmental Health and Trading Standards[1]
BV 217	Pollution control improvements	Environmental Health and Trading Standards[1]

PI Ref	*Description*	*Service area*
BV 218a	Abandoned vehicles (investigation)	Environmental Health and Trading Standards[1]
BV 218b	Abandoned vehicles (removal)	Environmental Health and Trading Standards[1]
BV 219a	Conservation areas - number	Culture and Related Services[1]
BV 219b	Conservation areas - character appraisals	Culture and Related Services[1]
BV 219c	Conservation areas - management plans	Culture and Related Services[1]
BV 220	Public library service standards checklist	Culture and Related Services[2]
BV 221a	Participation in and outcomes from Youth Work	Education[1]
BV 221b	Participation in and outcomes from Youth Work	Education[1]
BV 222a	Quality of Early Years and Childcare Leadership - Leaders	Education[1]
BV 222b	Quality of Early Years and Childcare Leadership - Postgraduate Input	Education[1]
BV 223	Condition of Principal Roads	Transport[1]
BV 224a	Condition of Non-Principal Roads	Transport[1]
BV 224b	Condition of unclassified roads	Transport[1]
BV 225	Actions Against Domestic Violence	Community Safety[1]
BV 226a	Advice and Guidance Services - total	Community Safety[1]
BV 226b	Advice and Guidance Services - CLS Quality Mark	Community Safety[1]
BV 226c	Advice and Guidance Services: direct provision	Community Safety[1]
BV 2a	The equality standard for local government in England	Corporate Health[1]
BV 2b	Duty to promote race equality	Corporate Health[1]
BV 38	GCSE Performance: A*-C grades	Education[1]
bV 39	GCSE Performance: A*-G grades, incl. Maths and English	Education[1]
BV 40	KS2 Mathematics Performance	Education[1]
BV 41	KS2 English Performance	Education[1]
BV 43a	Statements of Special Educational Needs: excluding 'exceptions'	Education[1]
BV 43b	Statements of Special Educational Needs: including 'exceptions'	Education[1]
BV 45	Absence in secondary schools	Education[1]
BV 46	Absence in primary schools	Education[1]
BV 49	Stability of Placements for Looked After Children	Health and social care - Children[2]
BV 50	Educational Qualifications of Looked After Children	Health and social care - Children[2]
BV 53	Intensive Home Care for People Aged 65 or Over	Health and social care - Adults[2]
BV 54	Over 65s Helped to Live at Home	Health and social care - Adults[2]
BV 56	Items of Equipment Delivered Within 7 Working Days	Health and social care - Adults[2]
BV 63	Energy Efficiency of Housing Stock	Housing[1]
BV 64	Number of private sector dwellings returned into occupation	Housing[1]
BV 66a	Rent Collection and Arrears Recovery - Rent collected	Housing[1]
BV 66b	Rent Collection and Arrears Recovery - 7 weeks arrears	Housing[1]
BV 66c	Rent Collection and Arrears Recovery - Notice seeking possessions served	Housing[1]
BV 66d	Rent Collection and Arrears Recovery - Evictions	Housing[1]
BV 74a	Satisfaction of LA tenants with overall service of landlord by All tenants	Housing[1]
BV 74b	Satisfaction of LA tenants with overall service of landlord by BME groups	Housing[1]
BV 74c	Satisfaction of LA tenants with overall service of landlord by non-BME groups	Housing[1]
BV 75a	Satisfaction with participation for all tenants	Housing[1]
BV 75b	Satisfaction with participation for BME groups	Housing[1]
BV 75c	Satisfaction with participation for non-BME groups	Housing[1]
BV 76a	Housing Benefit Security - Number of claimants visited per 1,000 caseload	Benefits[1]
BV 76b	Housing Benefit Security - Number of investigators per 1,000 caseload	Benefits[1]
BV 76c	Housing Benefit Security - Number of investigations per 1,000 caseload	Benefits[1]
BV 76d	Housing Benefit Security - Number of prosecutions and sanctions per 1,000 caseload	Benefits[1]
BV 78a	Speed of processing new claim to HB/CTB	Benefits[1]
BV 78b	Speed of processing changes of circumstances to HB/CTB	Benefits[1]
BV 79a	Accuracy of processing Housing Benefit and Council Tax benefit claims	Benefits[1]
BV 79b(i)	Percentage of recoverable overpayments recovered (HB)	Benefits[1]
BV 79b(ii)	Percentage of recoverable overpayments recovered (HB)	Benefits[1]
BV 79b(iii)	Percentage of recoverable overpayments recovered (HB)	Benefits[1]
BV 8	Percentage of invoices paid on time	Corporate Health[1]
BV 82a(i)	Household waste management (recycling) - percentage	Environment[2]
BV 82a(ii)	Household waste management (recycling) - tonnage	Environment[2]
BV 82b(i)	Household waste management (composting) - percentage	Environment[2]
BV 82b(ii)	Household Waste Management (composting) - tonnage	Environment[2]
BV 82c(i)	Household Waste Management (energy recovery) - percentage	Environment[2]
BV 82c(ii)	Household waste management (energy recovery) - tonnage	Environment[2]
BV 82d(i)	Household waste management (landfilled) - percentage	Environment[2]
BV 82d(ii)	Household waste management (landfilled) - tonnage	Environment[2]
BV 84a	Household waste collection: kilograms	Environment[2]

PI Ref	Description	Service area
BV 84b	Household waste collection: percentage change	Environment[2]
BV 86	Cost of household waste collection per household	Environment[2]
BV 87	Cost of waste disposal per tonne municipal waste	Environment[2]
BV 9	Percentage of Council Tax collected	Corporate Health[1]
BV 91a	Kerbside collection of recyclables (one recyclable)	Environment[2]
BV 91b	Kerbside collection of recyclables (two recyclables)	Environment[2]
BV 99ai	Road accident casualties - Number of casualties - all killed/seriously injured	Transport[1]
BV 99aii	Road accident casualties - percentage change in number of casualties from previous year - all killed/seriously injured	Transport[1]
BV 99aiii	Road accident casualties - percentage change in number of casualties between most current year and average of 1994-1998 - all killed/seriously injured	Transport[1]
BV 99bi	Road accident casualties - Number of casualties - children killed/seriously injured	Transport[1]
BV 99bii	Road accident casualties - percentage change in number of casualties from previous year - children killed/seriously injured	Transport[1]
BV 99biii	Road accident casualties - per cent. change in number of casualties between most current year and average of 1994-1998 - children killed/seriously injured	Transport[1]
BV 99ci	Road accident casualties - Number of casualties - all slight injuries	Transport[1]
BV 99cii	Road accident casualties - percentage change in number of casualties from previous year - all slight injuries	Transport[1]
BV 99ciii	Road accident casualties - percentage change in number of casualties between most current year and average of 1994-1998 - all slight injuries	Transport[1]
BV 3	Overall Satisfaction with council	Corporate Health[3]
BV 4	Satisfaction with complaint handling	Corporate Health[3]
BV 89	Satisfaction with cleanliness	Environment[3]
BV 90a	Satisfaction with waste collection	Environment[3]
BV 90b	Satisfaction with waste recycling (local facilities)	Environment[3]
BV 90c	Satisfaction with waste disposal (local tips)	Environment[3]
BV 111	Satisfaction with the planning service by those making a planning application	Planning[3]
BV 74a	Satisfaction of tenants of council housing with the overall service provided by their landlord broken down by:-	Tenants[3]
BV 74b	black and ethnic minority	Tenants[3]
BV 74c	non-black and ethnic minority	Tenants[3]
BV 75a	Satisfaction of tenants of council housing with opportunities for participation in management and decision making in relation to housing services provided by their landlord broken down by:-	Tenants[3]
BV 75b	black and ethnic minority	Tenants[3]
BV 75c	non-black and ethnic minority	Tenants[3]
BV 103	Satisfaction with transport information	Transport[3]
BV 104	Satisfaction with bus services	Transport[3]
BV 119a	Satisfaction with Sport and leisure facilities	Culture and Libraries[3]
BV 119b	Satisfaction with Libraries	Culture and Libraries[3]
BV 119c	Satisfaction with Museums and galleries	Culture and Libraries[3]
BV 119d	Satisfaction with Theatres and concert halls	Culture and Libraries[3]
BV 119e	Satisfaction with Parks and open space	Culture and Libraries[3]
BV 118a	Library users who found a book to borrow	Libraries (supplied by IPF)[2]
BV 118b	Library users who found the information they were looking for	Libraries (supplied by IPF)[2]
BV 118c	Library users who were satisfied with the library service overall	Libraries (supplied by IPF)[2]
BV 80a	Satisfaction with contact with the Benefits Office	Benefits[3]
BV 80b	Satisfaction with service in the Benefits Office	Benefits[3]
BV 80c	Satisfaction with the telephone service	Benefits[3]
BV 80d	Satisfaction with staff in the Benefits Office	Benefits[3]
BV 80e	Satisfaction with Benefits forms	Benefits[3]
BV 80f	Satisfaction with speed of service	Benefits[3]
BV 80g	Overall satisfaction with the Benefits Office	Benefits[3]

[1] Data collected via EDC - total 116.
[2] Data collected by other government departments or agencies - total 35.
[3] Data collected via user survey - total 23.

Local Government Executive: Pay

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the average annual salary costs of directly elected mayors in England for each of the last five years for which figures are available. [156561]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportional cost.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* budget is of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit; [155690]

(2) who the board members of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit are; and by what process they were appointed; [155691]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff work for the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit. [155692]

Yvette Cooper: The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit's objective is to advise Government and the regions on the implications for the level and broad distribution of future house building of the Government's national ambitions for long-term market affordability and housing supply. The unit's budget for 2007-08 is £1,459,000 to include funding research and expert analysis on future housing trends.

The board members of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit are:

Stephen Nickell (Chair), Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford

Prof. Glen Bramley, Professor of Housing and Urban Planning, Heriot-Watt University

Prof. Paul Cheshire, Professor of Economic Geography, LSE

Bob Lane, Chief Executive for Catalyst Corby/North Northants Development Co.

Max Steinberg, Chief Executive of Elevate East Lancashire

Dr. Peter Williams, Independent consultant on housing and mortgage markets and housing policy and acts as Executive Director of the Intermediary Mortgage Lenders Association.

The board appointments were made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

There are 12 full-time equivalent staff who work for the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit.

Noise: Wind Power

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the guidelines for noise emission from wind turbines to be taken into account by planning authorities; and whether she has plans to review such guidelines. [158019]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning policies for renewable energy technologies, including wind turbines, are set out in Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22). PPS22 is supported by a companion guide which provides practice guidance on planning for renewables. Both documents are available at www.communities.gov.uk

PPS22 expects local planning authorities to

"ensure that renewable energy developments have been located and designed in such a way to minimise increases in ambient noise levels";

and in doing so, assess and rate noise from wind energy developments using the 1997 report by the Energy and Technology Support Unit. This report is available on the BERR website (www.berr.gov.uk). There are no plans to review this guidance at present.

Planning: Appeals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1693W, on planning: appeals, how many planning appeals have been considered and ruled upon by the Planning Inspectorate in relation to planning applications for residential development within the curtilage of existing residential development since 1 April; how many were allowed; and how many were dismissed. [157505]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Planning: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the revenue from planning fees in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2006-07. [157654]

Mr. Iain Wright: The revenue income from planning fees for 2007-08 is estimated to be £234 million.

The revenue income from fees for the period 2006-07 was estimated to be £232 million.

Planning: Renewable Energy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has plans to prevent local authorities from adopting a Merton rule in the planning process; and if she will make a statement. [156609]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 9 October 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) today (PQ 155448).

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what impact she expects the recent changes to the Merton rule to have on progress towards the Government's targets for carbon dioxide emission reduction. [155448]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Government have set out a timetable to cut carbon emissions from new homes. Major reductions will be required in 2010 and 2013. By 2016 all new homes must be zero carbon including appliances. These reductions need to be underpinned in the planning system as well as in building regulations, and they will require major increases in the use of renewables. "Merton Rules" are an important part of this framework.

As we gear up to our zero-carbon ambition, councils will be able to continue with and adopt new Merton Rules, although it is very important they are properly tested as part of development plan documents to ensure that standards are compatible with increasing affordable housing in the area. We also believe they should be sufficiently flexible to allow for off site as well as on site renewable technologies and councils should also consider wider local low carbon opportunities. The emphasis should be on minimising carbon emissions and maximising the scope for innovation. When there are clear carbon savings to be had from local energy supplies they should be included.

As we have said in "Building a Greener Future", councils should have a strategy for securing decentralised and renewable and low carbon energy in new development. Our new Planning Policy Statement

on climate change will therefore support local strategies that include both site (and area) specific targets and Merton-style rules. The area specific targets should be set for locations where higher proportions of renewable and low carbon energy are feasible and viable.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's policy is on the Merton Rule; and if she will make a statement. [158237]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) today (PQ 155448).

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's *(a)* estimate and *(b)* target is for the annual number of (i) local authority and (ii) housing association Right to Buy sales in England in the next period for which figures are available. [157476]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government do not set any targets for right to buy sales. The right to buy is available to secure tenants of local authorities and housing associations, while assured tenants of housing associations who have transferred with their homes from local authorities have a preserved right to buy. Social landlords are required by the Housing (Right to Buy) (Information to Secure Tenants) (England) Order 2005 to give their tenants an outline of the provisions of part 5 of the Housing Act 1985 (the right to buy scheme). It is up to individual tenants to decide whether they wish to exercise their right to buy, in the light of their personal circumstances.

Sleeping Rough

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to reduce levels of street homelessness. [158149]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 1998 the Prime Minister set a target that by 2002 the number of rough sleepers should be reduced by at least two-thirds. The target was met ahead of time and is being sustained. In 1998 there were 1,850 rough sleepers on the streets of England on any single night. In 2007 there were just over 500.

In addition, our £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme is helping make hostels places of change with 178 projects in 62 local authority areas. Hostels will provide better opportunities for people who have been homeless and prevent them from returning to the streets.

St. Paul's Cathedral

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward legislation to protect the viewing corridor of St Paul's Cathedral from Richmond Park. [157629]

Mr. Iain Wright: The viewing corridor from Richmond Park to St. Paul's Cathedral is one of the 11 protected vistas identified in the Mayor of London's view management framework. Directions requiring consultation on proposals that may affect these vistas have now been issued by the Secretary of State and came into effect on 13 July 2007.

Thames Gateway: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which capital projects were funded in the Thames Gateway project in each year since its inception; and how much each has cost. [149680]

Yvette Cooper: The total amount of capital funding by year was:

	£ million
2003-04	38.4
2004-05	136.4
2005-06	143.8
2006-07	118.3

Since 2003 central Government have invested over £7 billion into the Gateway for major infrastructure, roads, schools, and other facilities, as well as project funding provided by my Department. The Gateway also benefits from the £1.8 billion public sector contribution to the channel tunnel rail link enabling international services via Ebbsfleet from 14 November this year, and domestic services from 2009.

Unitary Councils

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for laying and ratification of secondary legislation in relation to areas where unitary local government bids *(a)* are still being considered and *(b)* have been approved. [156577]

John Healey: Subject to the enactment of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, we intend, in late November or early December, to take final decisions on all unitary local government bids and to lay any draft implementation orders before Parliament. Subject to parliamentary approval of the drafts, we intend to make implementation orders around the end of 2007. We also intend to make regulations making general provision about such matters as the transfer of property, rights and liabilities and staff.

Wind Power: Planning

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given to planning authorities on the minimum distances between wind turbines and residential accommodation; and what information she holds in relation to the equivalent guidance given in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Wales. [158020]

Mr. Iain Wright: The companion guide which supports Planning Policy Statement 22 notes that 'fall over' distance (i.e. the height of the turbine to the tip of the blade) plus 10 per cent. is often used as a safe

separation distance; but advises that the minimum desirable distance between wind turbines and occupied buildings, calculated on the basis of expected noise levels and visual impact, will often be greater than that necessary to meet safety requirements.

Guidance for Scotland and Wales is a matter for the Scottish Executive and for the Welsh Assembly Government.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether a new academy may be approved in an area where the local education authority is opposed to it; and if he will make a statement. [151880]

Jim Knight: A large majority of academies replace existing weak or under-performing schools. Others are proposed by local authorities as brand new schools in areas needing extra schools places. Each of these academies is, in effect, jointly commissioned by the Department and the local authority, with the local authority a signatory to the formal academy project expression of interest.

Other academy projects are brought forward where an academy proposal wins the competition now required under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 for most new and replacement schools. The purpose of the competitions is to ensure that new schools exhibit the highest standards and quality and that they meet the needs of each locality. Competitions are decided by the relevant local authority, unless the local authority itself enters a proposal in the competition, in which case the competition is decided by the independent schools adjudicator.

There are also a small number of former fee-paying day schools, which want to become academies in order to transform their contribution to local education by expanding and broadening their pupil intake to the benefit of all local students. In these cases, the local authority is not a signatory to the expression of interest, but the Secretary of State is under a duty to consult the local authority before considering the academy's formal funding agreement.

Academies: Capital Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the capital cost was of each academy *(a)* opened and *(b)* planned since 2002. [150837]

Jim Knight: Originally, academies were built with capital grant paid directly by the Secretary of State, together with a contribution from the sponsors. A new method under which academy buildings are being procured through Building Schools for the Future (BSF) or Partnership for Schools' (PfS) national framework has now been introduced.

Capital grant paid by the Secretary of State is paid under a funding agreement with the relevant academy trust. The first table as follows lists estimated costs including capital grant and sponsorship funding, for academies where a funding agreement has been signed, and the Secretary of State is paying capital grant to the relevant academy trust. For some such academies, no estimated cost is available because the design process is still at an early stage, and the section of the funding agreement relating to capital grant has yet to be agreed. Academies marked with an asterisk are operating in completed buildings.

A number of other academy projects are still at the feasibility stage of development and as no part of the funding agreement has yet been signed, and no estimated costs are available, these are excluded from the table.

Academy with signed funding agreement	*Estimated cost including capital grant and sponsorship £000*
Manchester Academy*	19,786
Lambeth Academy*	25,445
Northampton Academy*	27,358
Paddington Academy*	31,523
Salford Academy*	16,704
Barnsley Academy	28,369
Walthamstow Academy	29,950
Sheffield Springs Academy	27,300
Sheffield Park Academy	29,000
Stockport Academy	27,375
The Academy at Peckham*, Southwark	30,169
Harris Academy South Norwood*	35,991
Harris Bermondsey Academy	17,270
The King's Academy Middlesbrough*	22,301
Trinity Academy, Doncaster*	25,070
Haberdashers' - Hatcham Academy, Lewisham*[1]	7,045
Haberdashers' - Knights Academy, Lewisham*	40,455
Marlowe Academy, Kent*	27,803
Folkestone Academy*	36,820
Walsall Academy*	17,321
Sandwell Academy*	27,149
Bexley Business Academy*[2]	38,631
Greig Academy, Haringey*	16,479
Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough*	21,790
Capital City Academy, Brent*	27,494
City of London Academy, Southwark*	33,685
City Academy, Bristol*	27,666
West London Academy, Ealing*[2]	32,221
London Academy, Barnet*	34,356
Mossbourne Academy, Hackney*	28,624
Stockley Academy, Hillingdon*	27,549
St. Francis of Assisi Academy, Liverpool*	20,868
The Harefield Academy, Hillingdon	34,200
Dixons Academy, Bradford*[1]	6,510
David Young Community Academy, Leeds*	23,577
Grace Academy, Solihull*	31,700
Westminster Academy*	30,618
Thomas Deacon Academy, Peterborough*	50,396
St. Paul's Academy, Greenwich	n/a[3]
John Madejski Academy, Reading	27,656
The Bridge Academy, Hackney	47,722
Samworth Enterprise Academy, Leicester*[2]	19,502
The Petchey Academy, Hackney*	34,215
North Liverpool Academy	40,203
Bradford Cathedral Academy*	20,471
Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough*[1]	13,035
Djanogly Academy, Nottingham*[1]	23,660

Academy with signed funding agreement	*Estimated cost including capital grant and sponsorship (£000)*
St. Matthew Academy, Lewisham[2]	30,856
OASIS Academy, Enfield	32,676
Slough Academy Langley	31,533
Leigh Technology Academy, Kent[1]	36,590
St. Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington[4]	40,022
Withywood Academy, Bristol	29,200
Excelsior Academy, Newcastle	37,883
Corby City Academy	27,109
Ashcroft Technology Academy, Wandsworth[1]	13,636
Landau Forte Academy, Derby*[1]	4,600
Woodway Park Academy, Coventry	32,299
Immingham Academy, N. E. Lincolnshire	26,572
Wintringham Academy, N.E. Lincolnshire	23,046
Kensington and Chelsea Academy	39,250
Brooke Weston Academy, Northants[1]	4,612
John Cabot Academy, South Glouc[1]	3,781
Q3 Academy, Sandwell	29,544
The Belvedere Academy, Liverpool[5]	9,811
Bacons Academy, Southwark[1]	3,999
William Hulme's Academy, Manchester[5]	9,500
Spires Academy, Kent[6]	7,200
The Marsh Academy, Kent[6]	10,000
North Oxfordshire Academy	16,234
Burlington Danes Academy, Hammersmith and Fulham	N/k[7]
The Gateway Academy, Thurrock	N/k[7]
Madeley Academy, Telford	N/k[7]
St. Mark's CE Academy, Merton	N/k[7]
Harris Academy, Merton	N/k[7]
Harris Girls Academy, East Dulwich	N/k[7]
King Solomon Academy, Westminster	N/k[7]
Swindon Academy	N/k[7]

[1] Conversions from city technology colleges.
[2] All through academies catering for pupils aged three to 19 and costs include primary and secondary sections.
[3] Costs not yet established as contract not signed.
[4] All through academy catering for pupils aged three to 19. Costs include primary section but not the early years centre funded by London borough of Islington.
[5] Formerly fee-paying schools.
[6] Ministers have given special dispensation for these to be procured through Kent county council's own South East Centre of Excellence framework.
[7] Funding Agreement signed, but the capital grant part not yet agreed: these academies have opened in existing buildings.

The academies shown in the following table are being procured through BSF or PfS national framework, and the PfS estimated allocations are given in the following table. These figures represent the current assessment by PfS of the order of funding to be allocated for each project and may change as each project proceeds and costs are confirmed. Academies are only shown where a funding agreement has been signed—that is, they are in the implementation phase or are open; those at the feasibility stage are not shown. No capital contribution is required from the sponsors, who invest their sponsorship in an endowment for the academies concerned.

Academy[1]	*Estimated allocation (£000)*
Milton Keynes Academy	29,529
Pennywell/Quarry View Academy, Sunderland	23,800
Castle View Academy, Sunderland	16,389
Red House Academy, Sunderland	12,133
The Bristol Brunei Academy[2]	23,900
Eastbourne Church of England Academy, Darlington	15,338
Cornwallis, South Maidstone Federation, Kent	36,449
New Line Learning Academy, South Maidstone Federation	21,184
Barnfield West Academy, Luton	29,048
Barnfield South Academy, Luton	29,048
Havelock Academy, N. E. Lincolnshire	20,360
St. Anne's Academy, Rochdale	16,543
George Salter Collegiate Academy, Sandwell	21,000
Shireland Collegiate Academy, Sandwell	19,000
Walworth Academy, Southwark	27,406
St. Michael and All Angels C of E Academy, Southwark	37,599

[1] The Academy names are as at 26 September 2007; some may change later in development.
[2] Buildings procured under a PFI contract, let by Bristol city council.

Academies: Governing Bodies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and which academies appoint an elected teacher or staff representative to their governing bodies. [156438]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Department does not collect these data.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools will (i) start construction and (ii) be completed under the Building Schools for the Future programme in each of the next three financial years; and what proportion of those schools will be (i) new build and (ii) refurbishment of existing facilities. [148140]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a core part of the DCSF's capital strategy, providing a new approach to capital investment in secondary schools. The programme aims to create world-class, 21st-century schools—environments which will inspire learning for decades to come and provide exceptional assets for the whole community. Subject to future public spending decisions, the intention is to achieve this aim for every secondary school pupil within 15 waves. BSF was launched in 2004.

In financial year 2008-09, we expect that 51 schools will be completed, of which 34 will be new build and 17 will have been refurbished. A further 155 are expected to start construction.

In financial year 2009-10, we expect that 117 schools will be completed, of which 50 will be new build and 67 will have been refurbished. A further 174 are expected to start construction.

In financial year 2010-11, we expect that 167 schools will be completed, of which 60 will be new build and 107 will have been refurbished. A further 121 are expected to start construction.

These figures represent current plans, and will be subject to change as projects develop. In particular, the scope of projects in waves four, five and six is still in

development, with timelines and the ratio of new build to refurbishment yet to be confirmed.

The BSF programme does not include primary schools. Our Primary Capital Programme will provide additional investment of £1.15 billion for primary schools between 2008 and 2011, with the assumption that the programme will run for 14 years, subject to future public spending decisions.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Academies

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to agree to fund Building Schools for the Future programmes where the local authority has produced a sound plan for the development of secondary education whether or not an academy is included. [157224]

Jim Knight: It already is our policy to fund Building Schools for the Future projects whether or not an academy is included. However, where a Building Schools for the Future project includes a weak or underperforming school that meets the criteria for consideration as a potential academy project, we strongly urge the authority to consider this option, and where it does not choose to do so, to show that it has equally strong alternative and innovative plans that will achieve the same outcome of raising standards at the school.

Children: Exercise

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age children undertaking two hours physical exercise per week in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [154789]

Jim Knight: The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and School Sport over the last three years. The percentage of pupils who took part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week is as follows:

	Primary	*Secondary*	*Percentage Total*
2003/04	52	73	62
2004/05	64	75	69
2005/06	82	78	80

Prior to 2003/04, no data were collected relating to the amount of time spent on PE and school sport.

Children's Plan 8 to 13 Working Group

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who sits on the Children's Plan 8 to 13 working group; and how frequently it meets. [155921]

Jim Knight: The 8 to 13 Expert Group is chaired jointly by Lord Andrew Adonis, Kevin Brennan MP and Sir Alan Steer, Head Teacher Seven Kings High School, Ilford, Essex.

The following are members of the group:

Sir Keith Ajegbo—a former Head Teacher who has recently led the Citizenship and Diversity Curriculum Review for Government.

Graham Badman—Director of Children's Services at Kent local authority.

Sue Campbell—Chair of the Youth Sport Trust

Rosie Chadwick—Head of Prevention Services at Crime Concern

Jonathan Douglas—Director of the National Literacy Trust

Fiona Edwards—teacher at Stebon Primary School in Tower Hamlets, London

Dr John Guy—Principal of Farnborough Sixth Form College, Hampshire

Fiona Hammans—Head Teacher at Banbury School, Oxfordshire

Barbara Hearn—deputy Chief Executive of the National Children's Bureau

Jim Herbert—teaching assistant at Little Ilford School, Manor Park in London

Ron Jenkinson—Head Teacher at St. Osmund Middle School, Dorchester, Dorset

Carol Lake—Managing Director, JP Morgan

Brian Lamb—Chair of the Special Educational Needs Consortium

Denise Lynch—Attendance Leader in Education Welfare, Children's Services, Salford local authority

Mary MacLeod—Chief Executive of the Families and Parenting Institute

Dame Mary Marsh—Chief Executive of the NSPCC

Kris Murrin—child psychologist and presenter on the BBC

Penny Rogers—consultant in the North Essex Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

Caroline Ryder—Head Teacher at Carr Junior School in York

Vicky Scott—Joint Commissioning Manager for the Primary Care Trust and Local Authority, Lewisham, London

Sheila White—Head Teacher at Wyborne Primary School, Greenwich, London

Sir Michael Wilshaw—Principal of Mossbourne Community Academy Hackney, London

The group has met once already, and will do so again twice more over the course of the autumn term. There are no plans to extend the group beyond this point.

Danley Middle School

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with Kent County Council on its plans to close Danley Middle School and sell it for development. [156936]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* There have been no discussions with Kent county council about the closure of Danley Middle School and disposal of the site. Kent county council is considering proposals to reorganise schools in the Isle of Sheppey as part of plans to establish a new academy. The realisation of capital receipts from the sale of the Danley Middle School site was one of Maurice Smith's key recommendations in his review of the Sheppey Academy proposals, commissioned by Ministers.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what accounts directions were issued by his Department's predecessors in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156623]

Jim Knight: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 the HM Treasury issues accounts directions to the Department and its pension scheme.

For the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Department issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following bodies sponsored by the former Department for Education and Skills:

2005-06

Adult Learning Inspectorate
British Educational Communications Technology Agency
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
Children's Commissioner
Construction Industry Training Board
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
Higher Education Funding Council for England
Investors in People UK Ltd
Learning and Skills Council
National College of School Leadership
Office for Fair Access
Partnerships for Schools
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
Sector Skills Development Agency
Student Loans Company Ltd
Training and Development Agency for Schools

2006-07

Quality Improvement Agency—operational from 1 April 2006
School Food Trust—operational from 1 April 2006

Departments: Employment Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151682]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills was established in June 2001. The sums paid by the then Department for Education and Skills to recruitment agencies for temporary staff are shown as follows. These figures include the fees paid to the agency and the wages paid for those temporary staff. A breakdown of that information, and information prior to April 2002, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year (April to March each year)	*Agency spend (£)*
2002-03	2,688,149
2003-04	1,621,233
2004-05	1,498,420
2005-06	2,315,552
2006-07	1,500,682

Sums have also been paid to recruitment consultants for executive search and selection services, mainly in recruiting at senior civil service level. For that information I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given earlier in PQ 140034. A breakdown of the information provided in that answer to distinguish between the costs incurred in recruiting people who were appointed on either indefinite, fixed term, secondment or loan contracts could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list his Department and its predecessors in *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156646]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be found in the following sources:

for 2005 and 2006 "Public Bodies 2005" and "Public Bodies 2006" published by the Cabinet Office

for 2007 the DCSF website lists the DfES bodies for 2007 (http://www.dfes.gov.uk/ndpb/)

Current position, following Machinery of Government Changes of July 2007, can also be found in the DCSF website, including a list of those now moved to DIUS.

These sources list all the bodies requested and indicate whether they are Executive, advisory or tribunal NDPBs, or public corporations. The previous DFES and latterly the DCSF do not have any executive agencies or trading funds.

Education: Gender

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has conducted into the gender gap in school achievement; and what steps he is taking to close this gap. [157751]

Jim Knight: In England, girls have out-performed boys since GCSE examinations were introduced in 1988. In 2006 63.4 per cent. of girls and 53.8 per cent. of boys achieved 5+ A*-C grade GCSEs (2007 results will be published later this month). Girls are ahead of boys overall at each phase of education from early years and foundation onwards. The largest gaps are in literacy and the smallest are in mathematics and science subjects. The gaps in England have been broadly stable over two decades, and are in line with those in other OECD countries.

The reasons for girls' better attainment in literacy and indeed overall are complex, but appear mainly related to biological differences, differences in maturation, and differences in attitudes to learning and reading at different ages. The Department's recently published research paper "Gender and education: the evidence on pupils in England", of which there is a copy in the Library of the House, sets out the research evidence.

Four points should be noted:

first, boys' attainment has improved sharply over the past decade, broadly keeping pace with that of girls;

second, there are also issues of girls' under-attainment, and of girls' subject choices, which are worthy of attention;

third, gender gaps can be minimised by inclusive teaching strategies, and by the encouragement of reading;

fourth, the key objective is that every individual pupil is stretched to his or her full potential.

The Government's strategy, reflecting this last point, is to continue to improve teaching and learning with a special focus on personalised learning and the progress made by each individual pupil. In addition, the Department is planning a programme of school-level investigations and action research activities on gender issues. This programme will build on existing departmental initiatives focused on boys' literacy, such as "Boys Into Books" which has enabled every state-funded secondary school in England to select for its library 20 free books targeted at teenage boys. It will also include issues of girls' under-attainment, and girls' subject choices. The activities will feed into the forthcoming National Year of Reading which will promote reading both for leisure and school attainment purposes.

Folk Culture: Curriculum

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals to include the teaching of English folk dance and song in the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [157781]

Jim Knight: For children aged 5-11, dance is already a compulsory part of the current physical education curriculum, and schools may choose to teach English folk dancing as part of that compulsory requirement. The current National Curriculum Programme for the Study of Music states that the breadth of study should be taught through a range of music from different times and cultures which may include music from the British Isles.

For pupils aged 11-14 there has been some freeing up of the Programmes of Study in the new secondary curriculum, which is being phased in over a three-year period beginning in September 2008. Dance is one of six optional activities within the National Curriculum for Physical Education and schools will be able to teach more dance for their pupils if there is sufficient demand for it. The new Programme of Study for Music at Key Stage 3 says that the study of music should include "a range of classical and popular traditions" and this is expected to include "music from different national and cultural traditions", which not only includes the western classical tradition but can also include folk music.

Further Education

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which 200 secondary schools had the lowest post-16 staying-on rate in full-time education at the most recent date for which figures are available. [156635]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Maintained secondary schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies with a sixth form[1]: 200 schools with lowest post 16 staying on rates in full-time education position in January 2006 and 2007, schools in England

School name	LA no.	LA name	ESTAB no.	Staying-on rate
Walworth School	210	Southward	4215	4.3
Archbishop Michael Ramsey Technology College	210	Southward	4725	5.7
Howden School and Technology College	811	East Riding of Yorkshire	4063	6.3
The Eastwood School (11-18)	882	Southend-on-Sea	5414	6.3
New College Leicester	856	Leicester	4005	7.9
Joseph Ruston Technology College	925	Lincolnshire	5414	8.0
Brislington Enterprise College	801	Bristol, City of	4032	8.2
Impington Village College	873	Cambridgeshire	4004	8.6
Manchester Academy	352	Manchester	6905	9.0
Archbishop Tenison's School	208	Lambeth	5403	9.2
The Robert Napier School	887	Medway	5423	9.3
Wyke Manor School	380	Bradford	4033	9.5
Ashdown Technology College	836	Poole	4112	9.8
Bradford Cathedral Community College	380	Bradford	4615	10.1
The Ridings School	381	Calderdale	4036	11.1
The Grove	845	East Sussex	4058	11.5
Kings International College for Business and the Arts	936	Surrey	4468	11.8
Woodford Lodge High School	875	Cheshire	4129	11.9
The Morton School	909	Cumbria	4301	11.9
Filsham Valley School	845	East Sussex	4073	12.6
Hinchley Wood School and Sixth Form Centre	936	Surrey	5416	12.6
Edgecliff High School	860	Staffordshire	4083	12.6
Parklands High School	341	Liverpool	4431	12.6
New Brompton College	887	Medway	5454	12.7
Rossmore Community College	836	Poole	4111	12.9
Washwood Heath Technology College	330	Birmingham	4084	13.1
Sir Frank Markham Community School	826	Milton Keynes	4085	13.6
Woodside High School—A Business and Enterprise Specialist School	309	Haringey	4034	13.6
St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School	343	Sefton	4801	14.4

Maintained secondary schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies with a sixth form[1]: 200 schools with lowest post 16 staying on rates in full-time education[2], position in January 2006 and 2007, schools in England

School name	LA no.	LA name	ESTAB no.	Staying-on rate
Baysgarth School	813	North Lincolnshire	4491	14.7
North Cumbria Technology College	909	Cumbria	5408	14.7
Park View Academy	309	Haringey	4037	14.8
The Ellowes Hall School Specialist Sports College	332	Dudley	5401	14.9
Peers School	931	Oxfordshire	4074	15.3
Derby Moor Community Sports College	831	Derby	4178	15.5
Gladesmore Community School	309	Haringey	4033	15.5
Intake High School Arts College	383	Leeds	4054	16.0
The Verdin High School	875	Cheshire	4130	16.1
Handsworth Wood Girls' Visual and Performing Arts Specialist College and Sixth Form Centre	330	Birmingham	4207	16.1
West London Academy	307	Ealing	6905	16.1
Neatherd High School	926	Norfolk	4085	16.2
Corby Community College	928	Northamptonshire	4101	16.2
Northgate High School	926	Norfolk	4002	16.4
Alderman White School and Language College	891	Nottinghamshire	4117	16.9
City of Leeds School	383	Leeds	4031	17.1
Tividale Community Arts College	333	Sandwell	4120	17.2
Burnham Upper School	825	Buckinghamshire	4074	17.2
Quarrydale School	891	Nottinghamshire	4068	17.3
Moorside High School	860	Staffordshire	4072	17.4
West Gate Community College	391	Newcastle upon Tyne	4498	17.5
John Mansfield School	874	Peterborough	4074	17.6
Charles Edward Brooke School	208	Lambeth	4509	17.7
Portland School	891	Nottinghamshire	4374	18.0
Matthew Humberstone Church of England School	812	North East Lincolnshire	4503	18.2
Ninestiles School	330	Birmingham	5411	18.2
Beauchamps High School	881	Essex	5406	18.2
The National School, a CofE Technology College	891	Nottinghamshire	4635	18.2
Meopham School	886	Kent	5424	18.3
Bramcote Hills Sport and Community College	891	Nottinghamshire	4118	18.4
The Harefield Academy	312	Hillingdon	6906	18.9
The Netherhall School	873	Cambridgeshire	4061	19.0
Carr Manor High School	383	Leeds	4041	19.0
City of Ely Community College	873	Cambridgeshire	4083	19.3
Wortley High School	383	Leeds	4057	19.4
Chatham South School	887	Medway	4215	19.4
George Stephenson Community High School	392	North Tyneside	4030	19.5
Mandeville Upper School	825	Buckinghamshire	4067	19.6
John Smeaton Community High School	383	Leeds	4045	19.7
Sawyers Hall College of Science and Technology	881	Essex	5425	19.7
The King Alfred School	933	Somerset	4304	19.8
St. Margaret Ward Catholic School and Arts College	861	Stoke-on-Trent	4711	19.8
Vale of Ancholme Technology College	813	North Lincolnshire	4091	19.8
Unity College	928	Northamptonshire	4103	20.0
South Leeds High School	383	Leeds	4851	20.1
Shorefields School	341	Liverpool	4419	20.5
Woodham Community Technology College	840	Durham	4175	20.6
The Lindsey School and Community Arts College	812	North East Lincolnshire	4086	20.8
Cressex Community School	825	Buckinghamshire	4072	20.8
Retford Oaks High School	891	Nottinghamshire	4465	21.2
Coombe Boys' School	314	Kingston upon Thames	5403	21.3
Whitcliffe Mount Specialist Business and Enterprise College	382	Kirklees	4500	21.4
Oulder Hill Community School and Language College	354	Rochdale	4089	21.4
The Brakenhale School	867	Bracknell Forest	4030	21.4
The International School and Community College, East Birmingham	330	Birmingham	4244	21.5
Tollbar Business and Enterprise College	812	North East Lincolnshire	4078	21.8
Wadham School	933	Somerset	4508	22.1
Blake Valley Technology College	860	Staffordshire	4071	22.1
The Westwood School—A Technology College	331	Coventry	4043	22.2
Minster College	886	Kent	5417	22.3
Ellesmere Port Specialist School of Performing Arts	875	Cheshire	4161	22.3
St. Martin in the Fields High School for Girls	208	Lambeth	5404	22.6

Maintained secondary schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies with a sixth form[1]: 200 schools with lowest post 16 staying on rates in full-time education[2], position in January 2006 and 2007, schools in England

School name	LA no.	LA name	ESTAB no.	Staying-on rate
Slough and Eton CE Business and Enterprise College	871	Slough	4510	22.6
Whalley Range 11-18 High School and Business and Enterprise College	352	Manchester	4257	22.9
Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College	846	Brighton and Hove	4067	23.1
Parkfield High School	336	Wolverhampton	4131	23.1
Sir John Nelthorpe School—A Specialist Technology College for Science, Mathematics and Computing	813	North Lincolnshire	4501	23.1
Cardinal Hinsley Mathematics and Computing College	304	Brent	5407	23.1
Littlehampton Community School, The	938	West Sussex	4062	23.2
Henbury High School	875	Cheshire	5402	23.3
Serlby Park —A 3-18 Business and Enterprise Learning Community	891	Nottinghamshire	4420	23.3
The Wildernesse School	886	Kent	5433	23.3
Sir James Smith's Community School	908	Cornwall	4141	23.4
The Northfields Technology College	820	Bedfordshire	4008	23.5
The Rickstones School	881	Essex	5412	23.5
Primrose High School	383	Leeds	4044	23.5
Central Technology College	916	Gloucestershire	5413	237
Cleeve Park School	303	Bexley	4030	24.1
Northfleet Technology College	886	Kent	5456	24.1
Hextable School	886	Kent	4219	24.1
Park Hall School	334	Solihull	4031	24.4
Weavers School	928	Northamptonshire	5408	24.4
Magnus CofE School	891	Nottinghamshire	4583	24.5
Fair Oak Business and Enterprise College	860	Staffordshire	4171	24.5
St. Chad's Catholic High School	876	Halton	4614	24.5
Norton Canes High School	860	Staffordshire	4066	24.7
King Edmund Community School	803	South Gloucestershire	4122	24.8
Kings College for the Arts and Technology	936	Surrey	4509	24.8
Sprowston High School	926	Norfolk	4043	24.9
The Park High School	926	Norfolk	4019	25.0
Rosemary Musker High School, Thetford	926	Norfolk	4093	25.0
Oldfield School	800	Bath and North East Somerset	5401	25.1
Filton High School	803	South Gloucestershire	4113	25.2
St. Mary's CofE High School	302	Barnet	5403	25.3
Penketh High School	877	Warrington	4201	25.4
The Bromfords School	881	Essex	5407	25.5
The Grange School and Sports College	803	South Gloucestershire	4149	25.5
Lyng Hall School	331	Coventry	4030	25.5
Lea Valley High School	308	Enfield	4038	25.8
Sandhurst School	867	Bracknell Forest	4058	25.9
All Saints Catholic College	357	Tameside	4604	25.9
Prospect College	870	Reading	5410	26.0
Sheldon Heath Community Arts College	330	Birmingham	4081	26.0
St. Clements College	925	Lincolnshire	4609	26.1
All Hallows Catholic School	936	Surrey	5415	26.1
The John Bramston School	881	Essex	5451	26.2
Lordswood Boys' School	330	Birmingham	4057	26.3
Eastbrook Comprehensive School	301	Barking and Dagenham	4023	26.4
St. Peter's School	873	Cambridgeshire	5412	26.4
Audenshaw School	357	Tameside	5400	26.4
Walderslade Girls' School	887	Medway	4167	26.4
Kirkby College	891	Nottinghamshire	4008	26.4
Sir John Talbot's Technology College	893	Shropshire	4502	26.5
Roseberry Sports and Community College	840	Durham	4042	26.5
De La Salle Catholic High School	341	Liverpool	4795	26.5
St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School	887	Medway	5436	26.6
Thomas Becket Catholic School	928	Northamptonshire	4703	26.7
Devizes School	865	Wiltshire	5411	26.9
Savio High School	343	Sefton	4611	26.9
Oakmead College of Technology	837	Bournemouth	4189	27.0
King Edward VI High School	860	Staffordshire	4181	27.0
The King's Academy	806	Middlesbrough	6906	27.0
Larkmead School	931	Oxfordshire	4125	27.1
Maltby Comprehensive School	372	Rotherham	4015	27.2

Maintained secondary schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies with a sixth form[1]: 200 schools with lowest post 16 staying on rates in full-time education[2], position in January 2006 and 2007, schools in England

School name	LA no.	LA name	ESTAB no.	Staying-on rate
The George Ward School	865	Wiltshire	4013	27.2
St. Michael's Church of England High School	343	Sefton	4802	27.2
Helenswood School	845	East Sussex	4055	27.3
Onslow St. Audrey's School	919	Hertfordshire	4154	27.5
Ripon College	815	North Yorkshire	4203	27.5
Woolston Community High School	877	Warrington	4204	276
The Academy at Peckham	210	Southwark	6906	27.6
The Sydney Russell School	301	Barking and Dagenham	4028	27.7
George Dixon International School and Sixth Form Centre	330	Birmingham	5412	27.7
Eastwood Comprehensive School	891	Nottinghamshire	4201	27.7
Greensward College	881	Essex	5435	27.8
Brymore School	933	Somerset	5401	27.8
St. Peter's High School	881	Essex	4290	27.9
Trinity School	869	West Berkshire	4055	28.0
Padgate Community High School	877	Warrington	4218	28.0
Bridgewater High School	877	Warrington	4229	28.1
Banbury School	931	Oxfordshire	4021	28.1
Moseley School—A Language College	330	Birmingham	4245	28.1
St. Cuthbert's Roman Catholic High School, Rochdale	354	Rochdale	4612	28.1
Seaton Burn College—A Specialist Business and Enterprise School	392	North Tyneside	4041	28.1
The Business Academy Bexley	303	Bexley	6905	28.1
Noel-Baker Community School and Language College	831	Derby	5407	28.3
Queen Elizabeth's Mercian School	860	Staffordshire	4115	28.3
The Holgate Comprehensive School	891	Nottinghamshire	4429	28.4
Hartsdown Technology College	886	Kent	4172	28.4
Vermuyden School	811	East Riding of Yorkshire	4007	28.4
Hillcrest School—A Specialist Maths and Computing College and Sixth Form Centre	330	Birmingham	4012	28.4
The Manor School	891	Nottinghamshire	4032	28.6
Barr's Hill School and Community College	331	Coventry	4000	28.6
Wardle High School	354	Rochdale	5400	28.8
Millom School	909	Cumbria	4204	28.8
Southfield Technology College	909	Cumbria	4311	28.8
Montsaye Community College	928	Northamptonshire	4015	28.9
The Arnewood School	850	Hampshire	5402	29.0
Boundstone Community College	938	West Sussex	4042	29.1
Pool Hayes Community School	335	Walsall	4106	29.1
Wasdley Hills High School and Sixth Form Centre	885	Worcestershire	4044	29.1
Bay House School	850	Hampshire	5408	29.2
William Bradford Community College	855	Leicestershire	4059	29.2
Northolt High School	307	Ealing	5404	29.2
Garth Hill College	867	Bracknell Forest	4059	29.2
Reading Girls' School	870	Reading	5400	29.2
Sneyd Community School	335	Walsall	4107	29.3
Darlaston Community Science College	335	Walsall	4100	29.3
Ralph Thoresby High School Community Arts College	383	Leeds	4062	29.3
Charles Burrell High School	926	Norfolk	4048	29.3
Campsmount Technology College	371	Doncaster	4036	29.4
Culverhay School	800	Bath and North East Somerset	4108	29.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes only those schools with a sixth form.
[2] Full-time pupils in national curriculum year group 11 as at January 2006 who attend the same school in national curriculum year group 12 or above as at January 2007 expressed as a percentage of those pupils in year group 11.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of people aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18 were in (i) education, (ii) training, (iii) employment and (iv) none of the above in each year since 1995; [157821]

(2) how many and what proportion of 15-year-old secondary school leavers left school for *(a)* employment, *(b)* further education, *(c)* employer-funded training, *(d)* work based learning, *(e)* other education and training and *(f)* inactivity in each year since 1997. [157822]

Jim Knight: The figures provided in this answer are for individuals at academic age 16, 17 and 18[1]. Participation is broken down by: full-time education; work based learning (WBL); employer funded training (EFT); other education and training (OET); not in any education or training—in employment; not in any

education, employment or training (NEET). There will also be those that are in a category, e.g. full-time education, and also in employment.

Information on destinations of school leavers does not exist in this form. The tables for 16-year-old participation show the activities of all young people in the year following the end of compulsory schooling.

These figures are available in the Statistical First Release published by the Department in SFR 22/2007, please see the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/8fr22_2007.pdf.

[1] Academic age is the age of the individual measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.

Definitions

WBL for young people comprises advanced apprenticeships, apprenticeships, entry to employment (E2E) and NVQ learning.

EFT covers employees who have received training in the past four weeks; these figures are restricted to training other than WBL. It will include non-WBL apprentices and others on long and short term training programmes, but exclude those who have previously received training in their current job, though not in the last four weeks. It covers only young people who are in employment.

OET covers young people who are studying but are not included in other categories. For example: those attending independent colleges or training centres; at any college in part-time study not reported as released from a job; or receiving training in part-time education but not currently employed.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the annual cost of bringing per capita funding of pupils aged 16 to 18 years old in further education colleges in line with funding levels in secondary schools. [154337]

Jim Knight: Following a consultation earlier this year the Learning and Skills Council will introduce, from 2008/09, a new, common funding methodology for all 16 to 18-year-old learners. This will ensure that comparable funding is offered for comparable activity, irrespective of the type of institution providing the education and training to the learner.

Per capita funding for pupils aged 16 to 18 years old is at a broadly comparable level in school sixth forms and further education colleges. In 2005-06 per capita funding for full time equivalent 16, 17 and 18-year-old learners in further education colleges was £5,000. In 2006-07 we estimate this will rise to £5,100 but this will not be confirmed until final student numbers are available later in the year.

For 16, 17 and 18-year-olds in school sixth forms the level of funding per pupil was £4,900 in 2005-06, this rose to £5,200 in 2006-07.

Funding figures for school sixth forms and colleges are not directly comparable as a range of factors affects them including the mix of provision offered, achievement and retention levels and the location in which the provider is based. It is also impossible to get an entirely accurate full-time equivalent learner figure for college students whereas for schools, as almost all pupils study full-time in sixth forms, the pupil count is precise.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of GCSE students achieved *(a)* five GCSEs at A-C and *(b)* English and mathematics GCSEs at A-C since 1995-96; and if he will make a statement. [154711]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils achieving (a) 5 or more GCSE at grades A-C and (b) English and Mathematics GCSE at grades A*-C since 1996*

	Percentage of 15-year-olds[1] obtaining 5 or more GCSEs at A-C*	*Percentage of 15-year-olds[1] obtaining an A*-C at both English and Maths GCSE*
1996	45	35
1997	46	37
1998	48	38
1999	49	40
2000	50	41
2001	52	42
2002	53	43
2003	54	43
2004[2]	54	44
2005	56	46
2006	59	47

[1] Aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Percentages from 2004 onwards include GCSEs and equivalents.

Standards in secondary schools have risen dramatically since 1996. Record numbers of pupils are now achieving five good GCSEs.

Over 91,000 more pupils achieved five good GCSEs last year compared with 1996 and 78,000 more achieved five good GCSEs including English and maths compared with 1996.

This is as a result of a number of factors, including: challenge and support through the secondary National Strategy; swift and targeted intervention to tackle school failure; more effective use of data by schools and local authorities, helping to track and monitor the progress of pupils; and a system within which schools and local authorities are setting ambitious targets for their pupils.

The new secondary curriculum, to be introduced from 2008, will raise standards further still. Less prescription will allow for more time in the school day to concentrate on English and maths, particularly where pupils are struggling with literacy and numeracy. It will also allow schools to personalise learning in order to make teaching more engaging.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Gender

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys gained five GCSEs at grade A to C in each year since 1987-88; and if he will make a statement. [154601]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given as follows:

Percentage of 15-year-old[1] girls and boys gaining five GCSEs at grades A- C at GCSE since 1988*

	Percentage achieving 5 or more grades A-C[2]*		
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*
1988	29.8	35.8	32.8
1989	30.8	38.4	34.5
1990	33.3	40.3	36.8
1991	34.1	42.7	38.3
1992	36.8	45.8	41.2
1993	39.1	47.8	43.3
1994	39.0	48.1	43.5
1995	39.9	49.4	44.5
1996	40.5	50.0	45.1
1997	41.3	51.5	46.3
1998	42.8	53.4	47.9
1999	44.0	54.6	49.2
2000	44.8	55.4	50.0
2001	46.4	57.0	51.6
2002	47.9	58.2	52.9
2003	48.7	58.8	53.7
2004	48.8	58.8	53.7
2005	51.4	61.4	56.3
2006	53.8	63.4	58.5

[1] Aged 15 on the 31 August.
[2] Percentages from 2004 onwards include GCSEs and equivalents.

A statement regarding the differences in educational attainment between boys and girls was provided in the reply to question 149080.

Primary Education: Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools in each local education authority area primarily occupy buildings built before 1930. [156634]

Jim Knight: It is not possible, on the basis of data received from local education authorities on the ages of buildings, to assess numbers of primary schools primarily occupying buildings built before 1930.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock.

Primary Education: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils attained *(a)* level 2 or above, *(b)* level 2A or above and *(c)* level 3 or above in the key stage 1 assessments in (i) mathematics, (ii) reading and (iii) writing in each year between 1995 and 2007. [155591]

Jim Knight: The information is shown in the following table.

National curriculum : key stage 1: pupil achievements in key stage 1 all schools: England, 1995 to 2007[1]

	Number of pupils achieving			*Percentage of pupils achieving*		
	Level 2 or above	*Level 2A or above*	*Level 3 or above*	*Level 2 or above*	*Level 2A or above*	*Level 3 or above*
Reading						
1995	466,500	—	199,600	78	—	33
1996	464,600	—	176,600	78	—	30
1997	489,500	—	160,300	80	—	26
1998	500,800	265,700	163,600	80	42	26
1999	513,000	282,500	184,300	82	45	29
2000	504,600	282,500	168,900	83	47	28
2001	505,700	289,800	174,400	84	48	29
2002	495,700	285,700	177,200	84	49	30
2003	487,900	281,400	162,200	84	49	28
2004[2]	499,100	293,700	168,000	85	50	29
2005[3]	484,800	282,200	153,500	85	50	27
2006	474,500	273,900	143,800	84	49	26
2007[4]	457,900	270,800	141,200	84	50	26
Writing						
1995	477,300	—	88,200	80	—	15
1996	474,600	—	36,700	79	—	6
1997	490,200	—	36,900	80	—	6
1998	507,800	139,300	45,200	81	22	7
1999	519,600	156,200	51,000	83	25	8
2000	511,000	163,200	53,400	84	27	9
2001	515,800	170,600	57,100	86	28	9
2002	506,100	170,800	55,800	86	29	9
2003	471,000	217,000	93,400	81	37	16
2004[2]	480,900	217,000	93,500	82	37	16
2005[3]	469,200	201,600	85,800	82	35	15
2006	457,300	192,400	78,300	81	34	14
2007[4]	439,000	176,200	68,900	80	32	13
Mathematics						
1995	470,700	—	116,200	79	—	19
1996	491,500	—	114,300	82	—	19
1997	512,700	—	124,400	84	—	20
1998	529,000	233,700	118,400	84	37	19
1999	544,000	261,400	134,000	87	42	21
2000	542,900	303,700	153,000	90	50	25
2001	546,100	307,000	166,700	91	51	28
2002	531,900	332,400	184,200	90	56	31
2003	523,300	313,400	169,400	90	54	29
2004[2]	531,500	311,800	165,700	90	53	28
2005[3]	518,000	285,200	130,400	91	50	23
2006	507,300	274,500	120,400	90	49	21
2007[4]	491,400	270,300	120,400	90	49	22

[1] Numbers rounded to the nearest 100, percentages to 0 decimal places.
[2] The figures for 2004 are derived from combining task/test results for non trial schools and teacher assessment results for trial schools.
[3] Dug to a change in policy the figures for 2005 onwards are taken from teacher assessment results.
[4] The 2007 analysis is taken from provisional data.
Note:
Fine grading at level 2 did exist in 1995, 1996 and 1997 but these data are not easily amenable.

Pupil Mobility Rate

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil mobility rate was in schools in *(a)* England and *(b)* each English local authority area in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [155606]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in England and Wales were in school years *(a)* six and *(b)* 11 in each year since 1995. [157820]

Jim Knight: The information available is set out in the following table:

Pupils[1] in all schools[2] aged 10 and 15 at the start of the academic year

	Aged 10			Aged 15		
	England	Wales	England and Wales	England	Wales	England and Wales
1996/97	616,160	37,800	653,900	587,050	36,050	623,100
1997/98	630,810	38,770	669,590	575,770	35,770	611,530
1998/99	650,710	39,800	690,510	581,260	35,550	616,800
1999/2000	643,550	38,730	682,280	581,900	35,590	617,490
2000/01	653,450	39,090	692,540	605,340	37,170	642,520
2001/02	660,450	39,470	699,920	608,780	37,120	645,900
2002/03	656,500	38,990	695,480	624,190	38,000	662,190
2003/04	632,980	37,570	670,550	645,050	39,220	684,270
2004/05	632,380	37,060	669,440	638,690	38,500	677,190
2005/06	618,830	36,050	654,890	650,300	38,880	689,190
2006/07	610,700	35,520	646,220	656,720	39,640	696,360

[1] Full-time and part-time pupils. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained (including independent schools, CTCs and academies) schools.

Source:
Education and Training Statistics for the United Kingdom; Welsh Assembly Government

Pupils: Autism

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on cases where schoolchildren have been categorised as having fabricated and induced illness but where it has transpired that the symptoms giving rise to this concern were the result of the child being on the autistic spectrum. [152219]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has recently received a letter from Autism Consultancy Services which, among much else, mentions the issue of the parents of autistic children "being scrutinised unnecessarily for conditions such as Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy".

In 2002 the Government published their guidance 'Safeguarding children in whom illness is fabricated or induced: Supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children'. In view of the controversy concerning the term Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy the guidance refers only to cases of 'fabricated or induced illness', specifically where such behaviour constitutes an abusive act against a child. The National Autistic Society made representations to officials and Ministers at the Department of Health on the text of the draft guidance and said that the Society was content with the final text. It included advice on the importance of clarifying the contributing factors and identifying any underlying conditions which may play a part in the developmental delay of children who have been identified as having illness fabricated or induced.

Pupils: Fingerprints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in England have the ability to collect and hold fingerprint data for pupils; and if he will make a statement. [156969]

Jim Knight: We have no information on the number of schools with the ability to collect and hold fingerprint data for pupils. There is no requirement for schools to inform the Department when they introduce any biometric technology systems. The systems used in schools collect and hold data generated from fingerprints but not images of fingerprints themselves.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fingerprints have been collected of pupils in English schools; and if he will make a statement. [156970]

Jim Knight: Fingerprints are not collected in schools only algorithmic data generated by them. There is no requirement for schools to inform the Department when they introduce any biometric technology system.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance has been given to schools on collecting and holding fingerprint data for pupils. [156971]

Jim Knight: On behalf of the Department, Becta, the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency, issued guidance for head teachers, governors and parents on 23 July. This guidance can be found on the Becta website at:

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_saf_dp_03&rid=14160.

Pupils: Qualifications

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1127W, on pupils: qualifications, where on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications website the number of qualifications included in the secondary school (GCSE and equivalent) performance tables that are considered to be equivalent to *(a)* three, *(b)* four and *(c)* five or more GCSEs are. [149870]

Jim Knight: The National Database of Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ) website at www.ndaq.org.uk provides an up to date list of all approved qualifications for the GCSE and equivalent achievement and attainment tables. For each qualification, the contribution made to the level 1 and level 2 thresholds within the tables can be found by clicking the 'Performance Figures' link under the qualification's description. A qualification with a contribution of at least 60 per cent. is equivalent to three or more GCSEs. The exact number of qualifications treated as equivalent to three, four and five or more GCSEs can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Runaway Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will include a requirement to collect information relating to the safeguarding of runaway and missing children in his review of the public service agreement indicators. [158417]

Beverley Hughes: A new national indicator on young people who have run away from home or care overnight is included in the national indicators that will underpin the new performance framework for local authorities. This was published on 11 October 2007.

We are considering a number of different options to gather data on young runaways in connection with the new indicator, working closely with the Home Office, the police, local authorities and The Children's Society.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to give schools complete control over non-selective admissions policy. [154528]

Jim Knight: Through the Education and Inspections Act we have provided a framework for giving more freedoms to an increased number of schools. This includes more schools, both selective and non-selective, being able to set their own admission policies following local consultation.

However, this is in the context of a robust system of checks and balances. All admission authorities, whether local authorities or school governing bodies, must act in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the new School Admissions Code, which rules out unfair practices and criteria. We have also extended the circumstances in which objections to admission arrangements can be made to the schools adjudicator, whose decisions are binding for up to three years. This will ensure that school admission arrangements provide fair access for every child regardless of their background.

Schools: Community Relations

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which person or body is responsible for promoting community cohesion within schools; [157338]

(2) who is responsible for monitoring and assessing the degree to which schools are achieving the objective of community cohesion. [157339]

Jim Knight: The Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a new duty on maintained schools in England to promote community cohesion. The duty came into effect from 1 September 2007. Ofsted will report on the contribution made by the school to community cohesion from September 2008, to give schools time to embed the duty within their institution.

The duty applies to the governing body of a maintained school in England. We published guidance in July on how schools can build on what is happening already in light of the new duty. Within each school, it is for the governing body and senior management team to discharge the duty to promote community cohesion as part of its leadership and management role, leading the school, and involving the school work force and pupils in the promotion of community cohesion.

Schools: Floods

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of schools that were flooded in England in June and July 2007. [153844]

Jim Knight: According to information received from local authorities in the areas hit by the floods, a total of 857 schools were damaged by the floods: 467 in June and 390 in July.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the increase has been in parental representation on school governing bodies since the introduction of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. [149853]

Jim Knight: The Department does not routinely collect information on the composition of the governing bodies of maintained schools. However, parents must comprise at least one third of the places on the governing bodies of all maintained schools in England.

Schools: Health Hazards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of health and safety implications of the use of interactive whiteboards in classrooms. [154520]

Jim Knight: Becta provides the DCSF and subsequently schools and local authorities with appropriate guidance on the health and safety implications of using interactive whiteboard technologies. Re-assessment of the value of the guidance is regularly undertaken however guidance must be based upon current information provided by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Becta maintains close links with these organisations to ensure that this guidance remains up to date.

Schools: Injuries

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school-related injuries were recorded as requiring outside medical attention in each of the last 10 years. [151161]

Jim Knight: Employers must report to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) injuries to staff causing death or absence from work for more than three days, and injuries to members of the public causing death or for which the injured person was taken to hospital from the site of the accident. The HSE has supplied the data for the education sector set out in the following tables.

Injuries in school not reportable to the HSE which may require attention by, for example, a GP, are normally recorded in school accident books and my Department does not hold information on such injuries.

As the footnotes to the tables explain, the reported figures in later years (from 2003-04) are based on different methods of data collection and should not be taken as indicating any trends, such as an apparent steep decline in pupil injuries from 2002-03 to 2003-04. Footnote 6 reflects the HSE's view that the increased figures for 2005-06 may be due to changes in reporting practice.

The tables from the HSE include fatalities and injuries reported during educational visits in Great Britain. School employers are not required to report overseas incidents to the HSE. My Department receives information about these, and our records indicate that 11 pupils from English schools suffered fatal injuries while on an educational visit abroad between 1996 and 2006.

One pupil was fatally wounded in an English school by another pupil in 2003. The HSE figures, which relate to incidents arising out of or in connection with work, do not include this.

All workers

	Fatal injury	*Non-fatal major injury*	*Over-3-day injury*	*All reported injuries*
1996-97	2	948	2,495	3,445
1997-98	—	939	2,669	3,608
1998-99	—	909	2,536	3,445
1999-2000	—	852	2,631	3,483
2000-01	1	879	2,571	3,451
2001-02	—	848	2,241	3,089
2002-03	—	764	2,298	3,062
2003-044	1	433	754	1,188
2004-05	—	389	682	1,071
2005-06	1	390	753	1,144
Total	5	7,351	19,630	26,986

Injuries to members of the public[1] in schools[2] in England, as reported to HSE[3] 1996-97 to 2005-06

	Occupation[4]	*Fatal injury*	*Non-fatal injury*	*All reported injuries*
1996-97	School pupil/student	4	11,508	11,512
	Other public	1	383	384
1997-98	School pupil/student	1	9,447	9,448
	Other public	1	370	371
1998-99	School pupil/student	3	7,132	7,135
	Other public	1	378	379
1999-2000	School pupil/student	1	6,003	6,004
	Other public	1	323	324
2000-01	School pupil/student	3	4,768	4,771
	Other public	—	397	397
2001-02	School pupil/student	—	1,968	1,968
	Other public	1	443	444
2002-03	School pupil/student	2	1,919	1,921
	Other public	1	195	196
2003-04[5]	School pupil/student	2	862	864
	Other public	—	56	56
2004-05	School pupil/student	1	837	838
	Other public	—	71	71
2005-06[6]	School pupil/student	1	3,124	3,125
	Other public	—	180	180
Grand total		24	50,364	50,388

[1] Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. The information available under RIDDOR 95 includes two categories of severity for members of the public: fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries that cause a person to be taken from the site of the accident to hospital.

[2] Schools are identified using Standard Industrial Classification 1992 (SIC92) codes 80100 'Primary education', 80200 'Secondary education' and 80210 'General secondary education'.

[3] The Health and Safety Executives Field Operations Directorate is the responsible enforcing authority for health and safety in the education sector.

[4] Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 1990 and 2000). There are four occupation categories for members of the public: Member of the public; School pupil/student; Patient under medical or residential care; and Prisoner.

[5] In 2003-04 there was a change to the employer database against which HSE non-fatal injury reports are assigned. This affected the spread of non-fatal injury numbers by industry. The change was particularly marked in the education sector. As a result injury figures prior to 2003-04 cannot be compared with more recent data for this industry group. In essence, they are two separate series. Until more data are available on the new basis, an accurate assessment of a long-term trend cannot be made.

[6] In 2005-06 there was a change of procedures within the HSE, which may mean that some injuries previously recorded under the category of 'public administration' will now be recorded as 'education'. An increase in the number of sports injuries may also reflect an increase in reporting rather than just an increase in the number of such injuries.

Schools: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many incidents there were in schools involving the use of *(a)* knives and *(b)* firearms in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [153968]

Jim Knight: Concerning the number of incidents in schools involving knives, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to questions 151219, 151220, 151232 and 151233 of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1406-07W, which provides a table covering the period from 1999 to 2005 supplied by the Ministry of Justice. There is no comparable table for firearms carried in schools since there is no offence specific to schools. But schools are very safe places. The huge majority of pupils never wrongfully carry a knife in school let alone use one; and firearms in school are not an issue in this regard. Schools can screen pupils using metal detectors; they may also, if they wish, search without consent any pupil they suspect of carrying a weapon.

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of total expenditure on outstanding private finance initiative transactions relating to schools and early years for each year from 2007-08 to 2020-21; and if he will make a statement. [154539]

Jim Knight: Information on all signed private finance initiative contracts, including balance sheet treatment and future unitary charges, is included in HM Treasury's PFI signed projects list, which is available through

www.hm.treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.

The information covers the unitary charge payment projections up to 2033-34. (A unitary charge can frequently include capital repayments, service provision, inflation and major refurbishment).

This is a working document containing information on current signed PFI projects. It is updated on a six-monthly basis to reflect the updates HM Treasury receives from Departments at Budget and pre-Budget report.

Schools: Religious Sects

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the offering of grants to organisations against which there have been allegations of cultish behaviour to support their activities in schools. with particular regards to *(a)* Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* new Kadampa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International; and if he will make a statement. [152368]

Jim Knight: The Department has offered no grants to: *(a)* Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* new Kadampa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International.

All Government Departments follow stringent procedures, seek appropriate references and use independent assessors to examine the constitutions and financial records/accounts of all organisations before they make any recommendations for funding.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will extend the freedoms available to academies to all state schools which meet minimum performance criteria; and if he will make a statement; [154529]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 287-88W, on academies, if he will extend to all schools the freedoms available to academies; and if he will make a statement. [154791]

Jim Knight: Academies are independent state schools that have additional freedoms to help them implement innovative approaches to combating the impact of deprivation on educational attainment and to break the cycle of underachievement and low aspirations that afflicts too many of our communities.

Although the vast majority are established with the full agreement of the relevant local authority, academies are not maintained by them; academies are not bound by the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document; they have enjoyed additional freedoms relating to the national curriculum (though this has, as a whole, been made more flexible to accommodate the kind of innovation that academies have enjoyed, and since July, new Academy Funding Agreements have required them to follow the National Curriculum Programmes of Study in English, maths, science and ICT); and although, like other state-funded schools, academies have stakeholder governors, in order to determine the ethos and leadership of the academy and ensure clear responsibility and accountability, the lead sponsor will always appoint the majority of governors to an academy governing body.

My Department has no plans to extend these freedoms more widely. However, where there is a clear case for doing so, additional freedoms may be allowed to other state funded schools through the Power to Innovate. This allows the Secretary of State for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to suspend or modify education legislation that may be holding back, or even stopping, innovative approaches to raising standards.

Schools, colleges of further education, local authorities or trusts (acting on behalf of trust schools) may apply for a time-limited order to allow the testing of an innovative idea that has the potential to improve outcomes for pupils and students.

There are no preconceptions about the kind of ideas that could be supported. Since introduction in 2002, the power has been used in a diverse range of innovative projects—from testing 'virtual' governance, to allowing a group of schools to introduce a transitional sixth form for those pupils unlikely to be in education, training or employment after completing year 11. Power to Innovate inquiries have also prompted changes to general legislation, for example enabling schools to offer HE foundation modules.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Greater London are in special measures. [157345]

Jim Knight: The following table lists the schools in Greater London that are currently in special measures. It also shows the unique reference number, phase, local authority and the date each school was placed in the category by Ofsted. The list shows the position on 10 October 2007.

URN	School name	LA area	Phase	Date of inspection
101221	Valence Junior School	Barking and Dagenham	Primary	12 October 2006
133364	Pardes House Primary School	Barnet	Primary	19 October 2006
101309	Chalgrove Primary School	Barnet	Primary	19 October 2006
101556	Kilburn Park School Foundation	Brent	Primary	21 March 2006
101521	The Stonebridge School	Brent	Primary	13 June 2006
101609	Oaklands Junior School	Bromley	Primary	21 March 2007
101889	John Perryn Primary School	Ealing	Primary	12 July 2006
101914	Hathaway Primary School	Ealing	Primary	25 May 2007
101992	Garfield Primary School	Enfield	Primary	6 October 2006
102011	Houndsfield Primary School	Enfield	Primary	8 February 2007
102046	Aylward School	Enfield	Secondary	11 May 2006
100230	London Fields Primary School	Hackney	Primary	26 March 2007
102654	Gorringe Park Primary School	Merton	Primary	2 November 2006
102725	Keir Hardie Primary School	Newham	Primary	2 November 2006
102764	St. James' CE Junior School	Newham	Primary	22 February 2007
100817	Eveline Lowe Primary School	Southwark	Primary	22 February 2007
100839	St. Peter's CE Primary School	Southwark	Primary	11 July 2007
100847	Geoffrey Chaucer Technical College	Southwark	Secondary	24 November 2005
103071	The Beaumont School	Waltham Forest	Primary	9 January 2007
101148	Pimlico School	Westminster	Secondary	23 November 2006

The number of Greater London schools in special measures has reduced from 26 on 1 September 2005 to the current figure of 20. The number of secondary schools in the category has reduced from seven to three during the same period.

Secondary Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary school places were maintained in each year since 1997. [154449]

Jim Knight: The Department collects information from each local authority (LA) on the number of school places maintained via an annual survey. The earliest data available are for 1998 and the most recent are for 2006. The number of school places was not collected in 2002 to allow for a change in the method of assessing school capacity.

Currently, the number of school places is calculated using the net capacity method of assessment which was introduced in 2003. Up to 2001 the capacity of a school was calculated using the MOE (More Open Enrolment) method. The following table shows the number of maintained secondary school places calculated by the net capacity method of assessment between 2003 and 2006 and the MOE method between 1998 and 2001.

Secondary school places

	Number of maintained places[1]
2006	3,484,883
2005	3,468,525
2004	3,468,561
2003	3,455,993
2001	3,356,438
2000	3,349,632
1999	3,341,183
1998	3,274,034

[1] Number of places relate to position as at January.
Source:
Surplus Places Survey

Secondary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the proportion of secondary school pupils in England who are taught in classes with *(a)* setting, *(b)* streaming and *(c)* no setting or streaming; and if he will make a statement. [150670]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 25 July 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked for the latest estimate of the proportion of secondary school pupils in England who are taught in classes with (a) setting, (b) streaming, and (c) no setting or streaming.

Ofsted data on the use of streaming and setting are based on lessons observed during inspections. Since September 2005, under section 5 inspection arrangements, the recording of class organisation has been based either on discussions with the headteacher or teacher or by reference to the lesson plan at the time of observation. Whereas with section 10 arrangements all full-time teachers were observed by inspectors, under section 5 inspections this is not likely to be the case. Under section 5 inspections, a much smaller number of lessons is observed than would have been seen under the section 10 framework; and the lessons they see are not necessarily representative of the pupil grouping in the school as a whole. Retrieval from the lesson observation data would not therefore allow us to estimate what proportion of pupils nationally is taught in mixed ability or setted/streamed classes.

Lessons are recorded as being setted/streamed, mixed ability or otherwise organised. For clarity, setting is the term used to describe the organisation of pupils in classes on the basis of their prior attainment in the particular subject being taught. The term banding, which is very similar to streaming, is used when the decision as to which pupils are included or not in a class is based on the prior attainment in a range of subjects.

Although I am unable to answer the particular question you have raised, I have set out overleaf the data Ofsted has on the proportion of lessons observed in secondary schools during 2006/07 which were taught in setted/streamed and in mixed ability classes.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Sixth Form Colleges

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on sixth form colleges, how many new sixth form colleges were *(a)* established, *(b)* closed and *(c)* merged with other institutions in each of the last 10 years; and what steps his Department is taking to promote the establishment of new sixth form colleges. [157525]

Jim Knight: The number of sixth form colleges that were established, closed and merged in each of the last 10 years is as follows:

Sixth Form Colleges Established Since 1997:

1998

Bolton Sixth Form College[1]

2001

Brooke House Sixth Form College

2002

Longley Park Sixth Form College

[1] Established as a result of merger involving North Bolton College & South College Bolton

Sixth Form Colleges Closed and Merged Since 1997 (no colleges have simply been closed):

1997

South Park Sixth Form College

1998

Clarendon College
North Bolton College
South College, Bolton

1999

York Sixth Form College
High Pavement Sixth Form College
Arnold and Carlton College

2000

Phoenix College
The Rutland College

2001

Rowley Regis College
Shena Simon College

2003

Park Sixth Form College

2005

Tynemouth College
Haywards Heath College

2006

North Area College
Josiah Mason Sixth Form College
Widnes and Runcorn Sixth Form College

2007

Spelthorne Sixth Form College
Farnham Sixth Form College

We want to encourage a strong and growing Sixth Form College sector; Sixth Form Colleges generally are successful, high achieving and popular with students and parents. The White Paper 'Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances' (Cm 6768) includes our undertaking to expand the sector. New Sixth Form Colleges will be considered as one option where the Learning and Skills Council runs a competition for new 16-19 places. Following a competition in Rochdale, proposals for a new Sixth Form College are now being developed by the Rochdale Education Partnership working with the Learning and Skills Council. The 'FE presumption', under which high performing colleges are able to expand in order to deliver Diplomas, will provide capital grant for new provision at eligible Sixth Form Colleges.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained special educational needs schools were operated in each local education authority in England in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [158141]

Jim Knight: Data on the number of maintained special educational needs schools that were operated in each local education authority in England in 1996-97 and 2006-07, are shown in the following tables:

Number of LA Maintained Special Schools, by Local Authority Area and Government Office Region in England[1]

	January 1997
England	1,153
North East	71
Hartlepool	3
Middlesbrough	5
Redcar and Cleveland	2
Stockton-on-Tees	5
Former Durham	13
Northumberland	9
Gateshead	6
Newcastle upon Tyne	10
North Tyneside	5
South Tyneside	5
Sunderland	8
North West	198
Former Cheshire	20
Cumbria	5
Bolton	6
Bury	4
Manchester	22
Oldham	7
Rochdale	7
Salford	7
Stockport	6
Tameside	6
Trafford	7
Wigan	9
Former Lancashire	40
Knowsley	8
Liverpool	22

Number of LA Maintained Special Schools, by Local Authority Area and Government Office Region in England[1]

	January 1997
St. Helens	4
Sefton	6
Wirral	12
Yorkshire and Humber	111
East Riding of Yorkshire	6
City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	5
North East Lincolnshire	2
North Lincolnshire	2
York	4
North Yorkshire	11
Barnsley	3
Doncaster	7
Rotherham	7
Sheffield	15
Bradford	13
Calderdale	3
Kirklees	9
Leeds	14
Wakefield	10
East Midlands	81
Former Derbyshire	17
Former Leicestershire	16
Lincolnshire	19
Former Northamptonshire	12
Former Nottinghamshire	17
West Midlands	142
Former Hereford and Worcester	14
Former Shropshire	7
Former Staffordshire	29
Warwickshire	12
Birmingham	31
Coventry	11
Dudley	7
Sandwell	12
Solihull	5
Walsall	8
Wolverhampton	6
East of England	109
Former Bedfordshire	12
Former Cambridgeshire	16
Former Essex	32
Hertfordshire	27
Norfolk	12
Suffolk	10
London	162
Inner London	78
City of London	0
Camden	6
Hackney	6
Hammersmith and Fulham	6
Haringey	5
Islington	5
Kensington and Chelsea	2
Lambeth	8
Lewisham	7

Number of LA Maintained Special Schools, by Local Authority Area and Government Office Region in England[1]

	January 1997
Newham	3
Southwark	9
Tower Hamlets	8
Wandsworth	11
Westminster	2
Outer London	84
Barking and Dagenham	1
Barnet	4
Bexley	4
Brent	5
Bromley	3
Croydon	6
Ealing	7
Enfield	6
Greenwich	8
Harrow	4
Havering	3
Hillingdon	6
Hounslow	5
Kingston-upon-Thames	3
Merton	4
Redbridge	4
Richmond-upon-Thames	3
Sutton	3
Waltham Forest	5
South East	183
Berkshire	12
Former Buckinghamshire	21
Former East Sussex	18
Former Hampshire	43
Isle of Wight	2
Former Kent	34
Oxfordshire	14
Surrey	24
West Sussex	15
South West	96
Bath and NE Somerset	5
City of Bristol	11
North Somerset	4
South Gloucestershire	5
Cornwall	4
Isles of Scilly	0
Former Devon	21
Former Dorset	8
Gloucestershire	17
Somerset	8
Former Wiltshire	13

[1] Not all authorities can be directly compared as there has been some local government reorganisation between 1997 and 2007.

	January 2007
England	1,006
North East	61
Hartlepool	2
Middlesbrough	4
Redcar and Cleveland	3
Stockton-on-Tees	4

	January 2007
Durham	10
Darlington	1
Northumberland	8
Gateshead	6
Newcastle upon Tyne	5
North Tyneside	5
South Tyneside	6
Sunderland	7
North West	167
Cheshire	14
Halton	4
Warrington	3
Cumbria	5
Bolton	6
Bury	3
Manchester	14
Oldham	3
Rochdale	6
Salford	5
Stockport	6
Tameside	5
Trafford	6
Wigan	8
Lancashire	32
Blackburn and Darwen	4
Blackpool	3
Knowsley	7
Liverpool	13
St. Helens	3
Sefton	5
Wirral	12
Yorkshire and Humber	85
East Riding of Yorkshire	3
Kingston-Upon-Hull, City of	6
North East Lincolnshire	2
North Lincolnshire	2
York	2
North Yorkshire	11
Barnsley	1
Doncaster	7
Rotherham	7
Sheffield	12
Bradford	11
Calderdale	3
Kirklees	6
Leeds	6
Wakefield	6
East Midlands	81
Derbyshire	10
Derby	5
Leicestershire	6
Leicester	8
Lincolnshire	21
Northamptonshire	13
Rutland	1
Nottinghamshire	11
Nottingham	6

	January 2007
West Midlands	123
Herefordshire	4
Worcestershire	11
Shropshire	2
Telford and Wrekin	4
Staffordshire	23
Stoke-on-Trent	5
Warwickshire	9
Birmingham	27
Coventry	9
Dudley	7
Sandwell	4
Solihull	5
Walsall	6
Wolverhampton	7
East of England	95
Bedfordshire	10
Luton	3
Cambridgeshire	7
Peterborough	3
Essex	19
Southend-on-Sea	5
Thurrock	2
Hertfordshire	25
Norfolk	12
Suffolk	9
London	144
Inner London	64
City of London	0
Camden	6
Hackney	4
Hammersmith and Fulham	5
Haringey	4
Islington	3
Kensington and Chelsea	2
Lambeth	5
Lewisham	6
Southwark	9
Tower Hamlets	7
Wandsworth	9
Westminster	2
Outer London	80
Barking and Dagenham	1
Barnet	4
Bexley	5
Brent	5
Bromley	5
Croydon	6
Ealing	6
Enfield	6
Greenwich	4
Harrow	4
Havering	3
Hillingdon	6
Hounslow	5
Kingston-upon-Thames	3
Merton	3
Redbridge	4
Richmond-upon-Thames	2
Sutton	3

	January 2007
Waltham Forest	5
South East	164
Bracknell Forest	1
Reading	3
Slough	3
West Berkshire	2
Windsor and Maidenhead	1
Wokingham	2
Buckinghamshire	13
Milton Keynes	6
East Sussex	11
Brighton and Hove	6
Hampshire	26
Portsmouth	5
Southampton	5
Isle of Wight	2
Kent	24
Medway	4
Oxfordshire	14
Surrey	24
West Sussex	12
South West	86
Bath and North East Somerset	3
Bristol, City of	10
North Somerset	3
South Gloucestershire	3
Cornwall	4
Isles of Scilly	0
Devon	10
Plymouth	8
Torbay	3
Dorset	5
Poole	3
Bournemouth	2
Gloucestershire	12
Somerset	8
Wiltshire	6
Swindon	6

Source:
School Census.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to raise the minimum standards required to teach in the state-funded sector. [154522]

Jim Knight: We have recently reviewed and revised the complete suite of professional standards required of qualified teachers. These began to operate from 1 September 2007 and can be seen at:

http://www.tda.gov.uk/partners/ittstandards.aspx?keywords=qts+standards

The new standards clarify the professional characteristics that a teacher should be expected to maintain and to build on at different career stages, and apply equally to experienced teachers and those in training.

Teachers: Sick Leave

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers are on long-term sick leave; [151163]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers were assaulted by a parent in each of the last 10 years. [151235]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons mature students born before 1 September 1979 are required to have a GCSE at grade C or above (or recognised equivalent) in science in order to begin initial teacher training; and if he will make a statement. [154521]

Jim Knight: All entrants to initial teacher training must have at least a GCSE at grade C in English and mathematics or have reached an equivalent standard. Additionally, those wishing to train to teach in primary schools also need to have a GCSE at grade C in science or to have reached an equivalent standard. This additional requirement is to ensure that non-specialist teachers who teach science in the primary schools have some background knowledge in the subject. This is not required in secondary because science will normally be taught by a specialist.

Since 1 September 2007 the new Requirements for Initial Teacher Training have applied the science requirement to all primary trainees regardless of their age because we consider it essential that all primary teachers must have the necessary knowledge to teach science to pupils. Prior to this, primary trainees who were born before 1 September 1979 were exempted from the GCSE science requirement because their school days would have been before science in Key Stage 4 became compulsory in the National Curriculum. However, as it is quite possible for people in this category wanting to apply for initial teacher training in primary to study for and pass GCSE at grade C in science or reach an equivalent standard before they do so, and in view of the importance of science teaching in schools, we decided that the previous exemption should be formally discontinued from September 2007.

The exemption was informally removed in October 2006 to comply with new legislation on age discrimination and in anticipation of the change planned in the Requirements. By this time the vast majority of 2006/07 primary applicants had already been accepted for, or had already begun, their courses and were unaffected. The main change will be for those wishing to pursue primary training from 2007/08.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will assess the effectiveness of the on-line system used by the Graduate Teacher Training Registry, with particular reference to its effectiveness in *(a)* processing and *(b)* tracking applications. [155656]

Jim Knight: The Graduate Teacher Training Registry processes applications for postgraduate Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses in England, Wales and Scotland. Courses applied for are provided at universities, colleges and school-centred initial teacher training consortia. Applications are made primarily through an on-line system. Over 99 per cent. of applicants use the on-line facility but a paper form is also available. Applicants can track their application throughout the cycle, viewing decisions made by providers and updating their choice and personal details. During the 2006-07 cycle 26,223 applicants were accepted onto courses. The 2007-08 cycle opened on 12 September.

I have no reason to believe that the system does not provide a good service for both applicants and providers.

Vocational Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the development of the *(a)* 14-19 curriculum and *(b)* vocational education. [154517]

Jim Knight: We are making good progress on the development of new Diplomas—the first five qualifications were accredited in September 2007 and will be taught by schools and colleges within selected consortia areas by September 2008. By 2013 every young person will be entitled to study for a diploma across all employment sectors, combining academic study with practical experience to give young people a strong platform of skills development and insight into the ways a sector works.

Work-related learning (WRL), is an increasingly important part of the 14-19 curriculum, and is a key feature of Diplomas. WRL helps to develop the skills and attitudes that are essential in preparing young people for the world of work and has been a part of the statutory requirement at Key Stage 4 since 2004. Surveys from the QCA and Ofsted in 2007 provide good evidence that it is helping deliver better results for young people. In addition over 120,000 young people are involved in applied learning programmes such as the Increased Flexibility Programme, Young Apprenticeships and KS4 Engagement, leading to a range of applied qualifications, skills, motivational developments and progression opportunities. The final report of the review of work-related learning, published on 4 October 2007, sets out how we will build on the best practice that exists to embed work-related learning across the 14-19 curriculum. A copy of the report has been placed in the House Library.

Young People: Education

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged between 16 and 25 were not in education, employment or training in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2007. [156164]

Beverley Hughes: The main official estimates for those not in education, employment or training (NEET) are for academic ages 16[1] to 18. This is the age group covered by the Department's Public Service Agreement (PSA) target on NEET, to "reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) by 2 percentage points by 2010 (from a baseline of 10 per cent at end 2004)."

The 16-18 NEET estimates can be accessed in a Statistical First Release (SFR) published by the Department, see web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml.

The latest figures available are for 2006. The following figures are for individuals between the academic ages of 16 and 18 who were NEET in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2006.

[1] Academic age is the age of the individual measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August. Academic age 16 would be for those individuals in the year following compulsory education.

Males

	16-18 NEET	*16-18 population*	*Percentage of 16-18 NEET*
1997	71,264	915,761	7.8
2001	92,137	950,433	9.7
2005	124,624	1,025,799	12.1
2006	117,376	1,030,999	11.4

Females

	16-18 NEET	*16-18 population*	*Percentage of 16-18 NEET*
1997	83,048	890,568	9.3
2001	83,750	898,104	9.3
2005	92,439	968,640	9.5
2006	88,808	970,609	9.1

All

	16-18 NEET	*16-18 population*	*Percentage of 16-18 NEET*
1997	154,312	1,806,328	8.5
2001	175,888	1,848,537	9.5
2005	217,063	1,994,139	10.9
2006	206,185	2,001,608	10.3

Although fluctuating, the percentage NEET has risen slightly overall between 1997 and 2004 with a rise to a peak in 2005. This was due to a combination of factors; numbers in education and training fell at the start of the decade, and numbers in employment have fallen since 2003.

More encouraging though, the latest (2006) NEET figures show that the proportion of young people who are NEET fell, especially among 16 and 17-year-olds. The last three years have seen a steady rise in participation rates, which shows that our education reforms are having an impact.

The number of 16 to 25-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS), although it should be noted that these are not directly comparable to the SFR estimates. The following figures are for individuals between the academic age of 16 and 25 who were NEET in 1997, 2001, 2005, and 2006. They are estimates from quarter 4 (October-December) of the LFS, which historically has been the quarter providing figures closest to the SFR for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Males

	16-25 MEET	*16-25 population*	*Percentage of 16-25 NEET*
1997	289,759	2,871,674	10.1
2001	303,472	2,912,698	13.0
2005	376,547	3,021,408	14.5
2006	366,939	3,069,094	13.9

Females

	16-25 NEET	*16-25 population*	*Percentage of 16-25 NEET*
1997	472,275	2,909,797	16.2
2001	451,888	2,886,176	13.0
2005	509,343	3,072,401	14.5
2006	493,283	3,104,530	13.9

All

	16-25 NEET	*16-25 population*	*Percentage of 16-25 NEET*
1997	762,034	5,781,471	13.2
2001	755,360	5,798,874	13.0
2005	885,890	6,093,809	14.5
2006	860,222	6,173,624	13.9

Young People: Public Transport

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authority children and young people plans refer to transport planning for those aged 18 and under, with particular reference to ensuring access for them to *(a)* education and *(b)* recreational opportunities. [153760]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold this information.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing measures of patient outcome and experience of provision of NHS ambulance services referred to on page 60 of Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance services, published on 30 June 2005. [156797]

Mr. Bradshaw: Recommendations concerning audit, including measures around patient outcome and experience, are the responsibility of the ambulance trusts, and are currently being addressed by the ambulance trusts.

Ambulance Services: Emergency Calls

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to implement the recommendation in paragraph 4.13 of Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance services, published on 30 June 2005, to encourage greater clinical decision-making during initial telephone calls to *(a)* 999, *(b)* NHS Direct, *(c)* out-of-hours providers and *(d)* other telephone access points in the NHS. [156798]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ambulance services across the country work with partner agencies to implement referral pathways and introduce telephone advice systems into their operations centres. Ambulance Trusts are also currently taking forward work on the delivery of a national competency framework, and of a performance management framework, for control rooms and these will be used to inform the development of nationally recognised education and training programmes for ambulance call handling staff.

With regard to NHS Direct, out-of-hours providers and other telephone access points, it is for the care providers to ensure that calls are handled efficiently and safely to ensure the right outcomes for patients. NHS Direct and out-of-hours providers work to nationally agreed standards, including response times, and the Royal College of General Practitioners has developed a toolkit which will assist primary care trusts, and help providers to monitor their performance against the out-of-hours quality requirements.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in increasing consistency in call handling across urgent care referred to in Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance services, published on 30 June 2005. [156799]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ambulance trusts are working with other care providers to improve consistency in call handling. Measures include multi-agency agreed referral pathways between services, and the development of technical links between providers to minimise call waiting times and improve patient satisfaction.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has established the standard competency framework and core training syllabus for call-handling staff referred to in Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance Services, published on 30 June 2005. [156802]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ambulance trusts are currently taking forward work on the delivery of a national competency framework, and of a performance management framework, for control rooms and these will be used to inform the development of nationally recognised education and training programmes for ambulance call handling staff.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has commissioned to establish the level of medical support necessary to maximise the effectiveness of clinical telephone advice following publication of Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance Services on 30 June 2005. [156811]

Mr. Bradshaw: No research has been commissioned to establish the level of medical support necessary to maximise the effectiveness of clinical telephone advice. All services are, however, expected to have appropriate clinical governance arrangements in place to monitor safety and patient satisfaction with any clinical advice that is provided.

Ambulance Services: Protective Clothing

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requests he has received from ambulance trusts for additional funding for the purchase of stab proof vests. [155977]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is not aware of having received any requests from ambulance trusts for additional funding for the purchase of stab proof vests.

Ambulance staff across the country can have stab vests if it is decided they are necessary by their local NHS ambulance trust, with some ambulance services already having introduced them.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to issue revised guidance or instructions to primary care trusts on optimum ambulance travel times to accident and emergency units. [157017]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not issued guidance or recommendations on travelling times to accident and emergency (A and E) departments, and there are no plans to issue such guidance or instructions to primary care trust's.

The way the national health service responds to emergencies needs to focus not just on getting the patient to a location but also on taking care to the patient. This is why it is necessary to focus on a range of measures, including response times by the ambulance service, its ability to administer a wide range of treatment and provision of urgent and social care in the community.

It is a matter for the local NHS to ensure there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency care services that are responsive to people's needs. This includes A and E provision. The aim should be to provide safe, high quality care as close to home as is compatible with clinical safety.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on safe travel times for emergency admissions to hospitals in England. [157018]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not issued guidance on travel times for emergency admissions to hospitals in England.

The way the national health service responds to emergencies needs to focus not just on getting the patient to a location but also on taking care of the patient. This is why it is necessary to focus on a range of measures, including response times by the ambulance service its ability to administer a wide range of treatment and provision of urgent and social care in the community.

It is a matter for the local NHS to ensure there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency care services that are responsive to people's needs. This includes accident and emergency provision. The aim should be to provide safe, high quality care as close to home as is compatible with clinical safety.

Ambulance Services: West Midlands

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the *(a)* methodology and *(b)* accuracy of the analysis conducted by the West Midlands Ambulance Service of responses to its consultation on reconfiguration of its emergency operations centres. [158227]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is clear that arrangements for where ambulance service control rooms are situated, and how calls into the control rooms are received, are a matter for the ambulance services themselves.

The consultation on changes to emergency operations centres currently being held by the West Midlands Ambulance Service is locally led. Therefore, the West Midlands Ambulance Service would be in the best position to provide more details about the arrangements in place in this area.

Barlborough Independent Sector Treatment Centre

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated in each of the last three years by the Barlborough Independent Sector Treatment Centre. [156583]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of procedures that have been carried out at Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre in each of the last three years since it opened on 1 April 2005 are shown in the following table.

	Number of patients
April 2005 to March 2006	3,668
April 2006 to March 2007	3,864
April to August 2007	1,681
Total	9,233

Care Homes: Crewe

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many private care homes are situated in Crewe and Nantwich; how many residents are in each unit; on what date each was last inspected; how many have contracts with the local primary care trust or social services departments for residences from Crewe and Nantwich; and what the average payment is for such contracts. [156064]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that data on the numbers of homes in Crewe and Nantwich constituency are not available separately.

As at 10 September 2007, there were 124 privately-run care homes within the boundaries of Cheshire council area, which includes Crewe and Nantwich. The following table shows types of home, the number of beds registered at each and with the most recent inspection date. Information on occupancy levels and contracts with primary care trusts and local authorities and their value is not collected centrally.

Name of home	Type of home	Number of registered places	[1]Date of last completed inspection
Belong Macclesfield	Nursing	72	[1]—
Audlem Country Nursing Home	Nursing	41	8 August 2007
Woodlands Care Centre	Nursing	30	[1]—
Sutton Oaks Care Centre	Nursing	55	[1]—
Rowans Care Centre	Nursing	30	23 August 2007
Prestbury Beaumont	Nursing	35	3 April 2007
Adlington Manor	Nursing	88	[1]—
Greengables Nursing Centre	Nursing	31	30 May 2007
Brookview Nursing and Residential Centre	Nursing	55	28 June 2007
Clumber House Nursing Home	Nursing	36	13 September 2007
Sunrise Operations Mobberly Limited	Residential care	43	14 June 2007
Lauren Court Residential Care Home	Residential care	47	17 May 2007
Carmel Lodge Care Home	Residential care	36	7 June 2007
Weston Park Care Home	Nursing	90	20 June 2007
Vale Court Care Home	Nursing	56	4 June 2007
Hillcrest Residential Care Home for the Elderly	Residential care	32	16 March 2007
Curzon Park Residential Home	Residential care	25	1 March 2007
Bradwell Court	Residential care	27	7 June 2007
Cloverfields	Nursing	32	14 September 2007
Chesham	Residential care	33	17 April 2007
David Lewis Centre—College Community House	Residential care	8	12 July 2007
Brookfield House Care Home	Residential care	45	11 September 2007
David Lewis Centre College Complex Unit	Residential care	18	26 February 2007
Crabwall Hall	Residential care	43	26 October 2006
Hope Green Residential Home	Residential care	43	1 February 2007
Orcadia	Residential care	10	21 August 2007
Plessington Court	Residential care	19	30 May 2007
Brantwood Residential Care Home	Residential care	21	2 August 2007
Genesis Care Home	Residential care	42	28 June 2007
Ashfields Care Home	Residential care	39	30 May 2007
Lavender House Care Home	Residential care	20	15 May 2007
Chapel Brook House Nursing and Residential Care Home	Nursing	32	17 April 2007
The Old Hall	Residential care	18	11 July 2007
Corbrook Court	Nursing	30	3 January 2007
Turning Point (Westminster Road)	Residential care	4	9 March 2007
Applecroft Residential Care Home	Residential care	25	6 August 2007
Wrenbury Nursing Home	Nursing	33	10 April 2007
Park Lane Residential Home	Residential care	42	30 May 2007
Davenham Hall Nursing Home	Nursing	41	16 January 2007
Clayton Manor Nursing Home	Nursing	78	10 January 2007
Woodlands Christian Nursing Home	Nursing	85	28 February 2007
Willows Christian General Nursing Home	Nursing	60	22 May 2007
Tabley House General Nursing Home	Nursing	59	11 April 2007
Mount Pleasant Nursing Home	Nursing	42	9 January 2007
Whitby House Nursing Home	Nursing	40	15 May 2007
Weatherstones House Nursing Home	Nursing	31	31 May 2006
Tarvin Court Nursing Home	Nursing	28	14 June 2006
Sable Cottage Nursing Home	Nursing	38	13 November 2006
Prospect House Nursing Home	Nursing	44	10 January 2007
Pinetum Nursing Home	Nursing	48	12 February 2007
Oaklands Nursing Home	Nursing	40	23 April 2007
Southfield Manor Nursing Home	Nursing	101	24 November 2006
Pendlebury Manor Care Home	Residential care	61	3 July 2007
Jackson House Nursing Home	Nursing	4	9 August 2007
Hollins Park Nursing Home	Nursing	49	18 July 2007
Arclid Green Nursing Home	Nursing	8	16 January 2007
The Hill	Nursing	33	1 November 2006
Redwalls Nursing Home	Nursing	43	27 September 2007
Church House Nursing Home	Nursing	44	10 August 2006
Willows Nursing Home, Blacon	Nursing	73	2 May 2007
Orchard Manor Nursing Home	Nursing	53	19 July 2007
Thornton Manor Care Home	Nursing	47	11 July 2007
Sharston House Nursing Home	Nursing	48	17 May 2007
Rangemore Nursing Home	Nursing	49	31 July 2007

Name of home	Type of home	Number of registered places	[1]Date of last completed inspection
Highfield House Nursing Home	Nursing	13	17 April 2007
Mount Hall Nursing Home	Nursing	42	5 October 2006
Hazelmere House Nursing Home	Nursing	60	26 June 2007
Duneside Court Nursing Home	Nursing	64	17 October 2006
Westwood Court Nursing Home	Nursing	56	19 December 2006
Primrose House Nursing Home	Nursing	42	28 November 2006
Minshull Court Nursing Home	Nursing	34	27 July 2007
Avondale Lodge Nursing Home	Nursing	48	2 March 2007
Lonley Hall Nursing Home	Nursing	40	24 July 2007
Old Rectory Nursing Home Capenhurst	Nursing	35	25 September 2007
Kingswood Hall Nursing Home	Nursing	23	14 June 2007
Fern Lodge Nursing Home	Nursing	21	8 May 2007
Newton Hall Care Home	Residential care	34	11 July 2007
Frodsham Christian General Care Home	Nursing	70	10 July 2007
Winsford Grange Care Home	Nursing	60	11 April 2007
Station House Nursing Home	Nursing	69	28 November 2006
St. Stephens Care Home	Nursing	40	17 April 2007
St. Catherines Care Home	Nursing	40	13 April 2007
Rosedale Manor Care Centre	Residential care	80	23 April 2007
Hollymere House General Nursing Home	Nursing	48	14 September 2007
Helvoa Nursing Home	Nursing	42	15 November 2006
Richmond Village Care Centre	Residential care	41	28 June 2007
Overdene House Nursing Home	Residential care	70	3 July 2006
Newton Court Nursing Home	Nursing	60	21 August 2007
Lawton Manor	Nursing	50	17 May 2007
Gables Nursing Home	Nursing	34	7 September 2007
Cypress Court Nursing Home	Nursing	60	26 September 2006
Kingscourt Nursing Home	Nursing	37	24 May 2007
Acorn Hollow General Nursing Home	Nursing	48	14 March 2007
Crawfords Walk Nursing Home	Nursing	120	22 March 2007
Chester Lodge General Nursing Home	Nursing	40	4 September 2007
The Chapel House	Nursing	35	17 January 2007
Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home	Nursing	38	17 April 2007
Atherton Lodge Nursing Home	Nursing	49	22 May 2007
Aaron Court Care Home	Nursing	73	4 December 2006
The Laurels—Congleton	Residential care	36	20 February 2007
Tunnicliffe House	Residential care	16	4 April 2007
Cavendish House	Residential care	6	23 November 2006
Stone House	Residential care	33	19 December 2006
Park House	Residential care	29	30 August 2007
Essendene	Residential care	13	2 March 2007
Mayfield House	Residential care	51	25 May 2006
Sandway Lodge	Residential care	36	11 October 2006
The Manor	Residential care	45	24 July 2007
Alsager Court Care Centre	Nursing	27	6 July 2007
Hillside	Residential care	19	10 October 2006
Hinderton Mount	Residential care	26	24 January 2007
Duneside Mews	Residential care	34	18 April 2007
Mount Pleasant	Residential care	25	16 May 2007
Dystlegh Grange	Residential care	40	4 June 2007
Inglewood	Residential care	22	5 December 2006
Sandway Manor	Residential care	29	29 August 2007
Upton Grange	Residential care	25	17 May 2007
Morningside	Residential care	31	15 November 2006
Dunfield	Residential care	13	31 October 2006
Hartford Hey	Residential care	28	7 August 2007
Ms J. Jordan	Residential care	3	24 July 2007
Dee House	Residential care	9	4 August 2006
Thornton House	Residential care	22	30 October 2006
The Grange	Residential care	3	30 November 2006

[1] A blank in this column indicates that registration is still to be completed, i.e. a new or re-registered home.
Source:
CSCI Registration and Inspection database, 10 September 2007.

Clacton Hospital: Closures

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the recent local consultation to determine whether to shut the Peter Bruff Ward at Clacton hospital. [156984]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the local national health service and the East of England strategic health authority as the local headquarters of the NHS.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has submitted evidence to the Archer inquiry into the safety of blood products; and if he will make a statement. [156814]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is co-operating fully with the inquiry. Officials have met the inquiry team twice, on 25 April and 19 September, to hear their concerns. The evidence held by the Department is in the form of the official documents covering these issues in the years 1970-85. These documents have been prepared in line with the Freedom of Information Act and released to the inquiry team in monthly batches starting in June, and the final batch will be released this month.

Departments: Offices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to establish regional offices of his Department; and whether they will be based on *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* Government Office for the Region boundaries. [158186]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to establish regional offices of the Department.

The Department already has a public health presence which is co-located in each Government office for the region.

Following its high level review, the Department has considered options to improve our capacity and capability at a regional level; to strengthen our relationships with local authorities across their responsibilities for adult social care and improving public health.'

Our proposals focus on building the capability and capacity of our presence in each Government office for the region. Our proposals do not suggest any change to the functions of strategic health authorities.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155892]

Dawn Primarolo: Figures for spend 2007-08 are as follows:

Sexual health: total campaign budget £1,177,000 (advertising expenditure only).

Spend to date on specified channels

	£
TV	565,000
Radio	187,000
Press	195,000

Further planned spend:

Radio: £230,000

Flu immunisation: total budget £879,000 (advertising expenditure only).

Spend to date on specified channels

	£
TV	542,000
Press	282,000
Radio	42,000

Further £13,000 is planned for later in the year.

Hepatitis C: total budget: £890,000 (advertising expenditure only).

Planned spend

	£
Radio	590,000
Press	300,000

Tobacco control: £11,390,000 (advertising expenditure only).

	£
TV	3,400,000
Radio	755,000
Press	735,000

Further £6,500,000 is planned for the rest of the year.

The aforementioned figures only refer to campaigns which are solely funded by the Department.

Next financial year (2008-09)

Figures for spend 2008-09 cannot be provided at this stage as budget and media allocations have not been finalised.

Departments: Reorganisation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the basis is for the decision to put in place new arrangements for a comprehensive regional presence outlined in his Department's Capability Review and Development Plan, published on 12 September 2007; which arrangements currently exist to support the Department's regional presence; whether he anticipates the reconfiguration of strategic health authorities in support of the new arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [156808]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following its high level review, the Department has considered options to improve our capacity and capability at a regional level; to strengthen our relationships with local authorities across their responsibilities for adult social care and improving public health.

At present the Department has a smaller presence in each Government office for the regions (GOR) than comparable Departments of State.

Our proposals focus on building the capability and capacity of our presence in each GOR. Our proposals do not suggest any change to the functions of strategic health authorities.

Departments: Temporary Employment

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of his Department's staff were provided by agencies at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest cost was per agency staff member for the most recent period for which figures are available. [156188]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not keep records that would provide such an analysis of agency staff. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Emergency Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in Suffolk were charged with attacking emergency service workers in each of the last 10 years. [156766]

Ann Keen: This information is not collated centrally in relation to emergency workers engaged in delivery of national health service services.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written statement of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 52-4WS, on GP services (better access), what the scope is of Lord Darzi's work on the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF); whether his work will inform the QOF indicators which will apply in 2008-09; how Lord Darzi plans to seek views from *(a)* GPs, *(b)* other NHS staff and *(c)* other interested parties on his work; and if he will make a statement. [154515]

Ann Keen: The national health service Next Stage review announced on 4 July and led by Lord Darzi is addressing four challenges as set out in the terms of reference available in the Library and summarised as follows:

ensuring clinical decision making is at the heart of the NHS;

improving the quality of patient care;

delivering more accessible and convenient care, reflecting best value for money; and

ensuring services are responsive to patients and local communities.

In pursuing these issues, the review will consider the provision of primary medical services and the underpinning contractual incentives including the quality and outcomes framework. Discussions with the British Medical Association (BMA) and others about contractual matters are being taken forward in the normal way.

In the past 10 weeks Lord Darzi has met more than 1,500 patients and NHS staff to garner their views on the issues in question. He has also met the representatives of 250 stakeholder groups, including patient representative organisations, NHS trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, as well as Royal Colleges and the voluntary sector and seen 1,400 letters and emails from individuals.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many urgent care networks there are in England; where they operate; and if he will make a statement. [156800]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. However, we have commissioned the Medical Care Research Unit at Sheffield University to investigate the operation of urgent and emergency care networks in the national health service.

Health Services: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* target levels of funding based on health needs and *(b)* actual level of funding received was for (i) the Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust and (ii) the Luton Primary Care Trust in each year since the trusts were established; and if he will make a statement. [155632]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Revenue allocations were made to primary care trusts (PCT) for the first time in 2003-04. The following table show the allocations and distance from targets for Bedfordshire PCT and Luton PCT for the two allocation rounds 2003-06 and 2006-08.

PCT name	*Actual allocation (£000)*	*Closing distance from target (Percentage)*
2003-04		
Bedfordshire PCT	299,591	-3.2
Luton PCT	153,586	-6.7
2004-05		
Bedfordshire PCT	328,456	-3.0
Luton PCT	168,759	-6.3
2005-06		
Bedfordshire PCT	359,454	-2.9
Luton PCT	185,096	-6.0
2006-07		
Bedfordshire PCT	434,053	-4.4
Luton PCT	223,068	-5.1
2007-08		
Bedfordshire PCT	483,955	-3.3
Luton PCT	247,703	-3.5

Notes:
1. 2003-04 to 2007-08 allocations were made to Bedford PCT and Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT, which merged to form Bedfordshire PCT on 1 October 2006.
2. 2003-04 to 2005-06 allocations were covered by a single resource allocation formula, which also took account of general medical services (GMS NCL) expenditure. Most GMS NCL funding was included in 2006-07 and 2007-08 allocations.
3. The distance from target (DFT) represents the actual allocation compared to the target allocation. With a DFT of -1 per cent. the actual allocation is 1 per cent. less than the target allocation.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account has been taken of *(a)* the number of people who have difficulties with the English language in Bedfordshire and Luton, *(b)* the sustainable communities growth areas, *(c)* the provision of (i) prescribing services, (ii) primary medical services, (iii) HIV/AIDS services for Bedfordshire and Luton and (iv) hospital and community health services, *(d)* the level of inward migration into Bedfordshire and Luton, *(e)* the weighted population for Bedfordshire and Luton, *(f)* the pace of change element for Bedfordshire and Luton and *(g)* the particular health needs of Bedfordshire and Luton when allocating funds for (A) Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust and (B) Luton Primary Care Trust; and if he will make a statement. [155926]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The formula which informed 2006-07 and 2007-08 allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) is described in "Resource allocation: weighted capitation formula (fifth edition)".

The calculations behind 2006-07 and 2007-08 allocations, including populations, age, need, market forces factor and other adjustments, and pace of change policy are provided for the 303 PCTs to which those allocations were made in the publication entitled "2006-07 and 2007-08 PCT initial revenue resource limits".

Both publications are available in the Library and at www.dh.gov.uk/allocations

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the age and accuracy of statistical information used when allocating funds for *(a)* Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Luton Primary Care Trust; and if he will make a statement. [155928]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The weighted capitation formula that is used to inform revenue allocations to primary care trusts is continuously overseen and developed by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA).

"Resource allocation: weighted capitation formula (fifth edition)" describes the statistical information in the weighted capitation formula which informed allocations to primary care trusts in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

"Allocation of resources to English areas; individual and small area determinants of morbidity and use of healthcare resources (Sutton M, Gravelle H, Morris S, Leyland A, Windmeijer F, Dibben C, Muirhead M)", report to the Department, further explains the statistical information used to develop need adjustments in the hospital and community health services and prescribing components of the formula.

Both publications are available in the Library and also at www.dh.gov.uk/allocations

ACRA also keep the accuracy of the information under review.

Health Services: Community Care

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are in receipt of NHS continuing care services in each primary care trust; and what percentage this represents per 50,000 of each trust's population. [158432]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Continuing care, primary care trusts (PCT)

PCT name	*Number of people receiving continuing care*	*PCT population*	*Number per 50,000 population*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	126	306,680	20.5
Barking and Dagenham PCT	96	164,521	29.2
Barnet PCT	242	329,681	36.7
Barnsley PCT	51	222,120	11.5
Bassetlaw PCT	17	110,716	7.7
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	158	173,708	45.5
Bedfordshire PCT	172	397,717	21.6
Berkshire East PCT	71	378,884	9.4
Berkshire West PCT	268	445,017	30.1
Bexley Care Trust	127	220,310	28.8
Birmingham East and North PCT	147	396,780	18.5
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	49	140,228	17.5
Blackpool PCT	55	142,915	19.2
Bolton PCT	119	265,372	22.4
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	146	300,655	24.3
Bradford and Airedale PCT	166	485,015	17.1
Brent Teaching PCT	583	270,084	107.9
Brighton and Hove City PCT	156	255,022	30.6
Bristol PCT	86	398,276	10.8
Bromley PCT	168	301,926	27.8
Buckinghamshire PCT	0	494,946	0.0
Bury PCT	22	183,486	6.0
Calderdale PCT	77	195,291	19.7
Cambridgeshire PCT	174	588,886	14.8
Camden PCT	166	226,102	36.7

Continuing care, primary care trusts (PCT)

PCT name	*Number of people receiving continuing care*	*PCT population*	*Number per 50,000 population*
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	100	447,389	11.2
Central Lancashire PCT	206	450,256	22.9
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	175	216,927	40.3
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	541	519,446	52.1
County Durham PCT	517	499,759	51.7
Coventry Teaching PCT	836	304,236	137.4
Croydon PCT	215	342,697	31.4
Cumbria PCT	140	498,870	14.0
Darlington PCT	63	99,177	31.8
Derby City PCT	152	233,748	32.5
Derbyshire County PCT	218	714,284	15.3
Devon PCT	227	730,978	15.5
Doncaster PCT	153	289,602	26.4
Dorset PCT	42	401,145	5.2
Dudley PCT	277	305,620	45.3
Ealing PCT	77	301,783	12.8
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	285	518,416	27.5
East Lancashire PCT	116	381,519	15.2
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	35	327,378	5.3
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	181	324,996	27.8
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	329	714,214	23.0
Enfield PCT	168	280,540	29.9
Gateshead PCT	116	191,479	30.3
Gloucestershire PCT	61	575,225	5.3
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	43	207,222	10.4
Greenwich Teaching PCT	135	228,145	29.6
Halton and St. Helens PCT	100	295,027	16.9
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	94	179,850	26.1
Hampshire PCT	1,076	1,259,474	42.7
Haringey Teaching PCT	185	224,477	41.2
Harrow PCT	306	213,961	71.5
Hartlepool PCT	152	90,012	84.4
Hastings and Rother PCT	56	172,911	16.2
Havering PCT	316	226,209	69.8
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	61	266,619	11.4
Herefordshire PCT	52	178,763	14.5
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	82	206,391	19.9
Hillingdon PCT	290	252,404	57.4
Hounslow PCT	294	212,508	69.2
Hull PCT	168	249,097	33.7
Isle Of Wight NHS PCT	57	140,015	20.4
Islington PCT	127	182,637	34.8
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	140	196,232	35.7
Kingston PCT	71	153,027	23.2
Kirklees PCT	125	394,557	15.8
Knowsley PCT	56	149,393	18.7
Lambeth PCT	120	269,127	22.3
Leeds PCT	520	723,088	36.0
Leicester City PCT	103	288,016	17.9
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	187	665,154	14.1
Lewisham PCT	113	247,463	22.8
Lincolnshire PCT	431	681,056	31.6
Liverpool PCT	225	447,457	25.1
Luton PCT	130	184,895	35.2
Manchester PCT	128	441,184	14.5
Medway PCT	117	251,072	23.3
Mid Essex PCT	273	357,222	38.2
Middlesbrough PCT	88	137,571	32.0
Milton Keynes PCT	63	223,904	14.1

Continuing care, primary care trusts (PCT)

PCT name	*Number of people receiving continuing care*	*PCT population*	*Number per 50,000 population*
Newcastle PCT	66	276,377	11.9
Newham PCT	55	246,230	11.2
Norfolk PCT	233	731,721	15.9
North East Essex PCT	56	305,174	9.2
North East Lincolnshire PCT	99	158,777	31.2
North Lancashire PCT	246	324,348	37.9
North Lincolnshire PCT	60	153,416	19.6
North Somerset PCT	34	195,104	8.7
North Staffordshire PCT	121	210,199	28.8
North Tees PCT	96	186,681	25.7
North Tyneside PCT	102	192,319	26.5
North Yorkshire and York PCT	245	768,721	15.9
Northamptonshire PCT	397	651,824	30.5
Northumberland Care Trust	213	311,329	34.2
Nottingham City PCT	87	278,693	15.6
Nottinghamshire County PCT	212	651,971	16.3
Oldham PCT	122	219,178	27.8
Oxfordshire PCT	145	602,383	12.0
Peterborough PCT	123	159,706	38.5
Plymouth Teaching PCT	100	246,130	20.3
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	190	189,599	50.1
Redbridge PCT	138	251,502	27.4
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	58	138,599	20.9
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	104	186,265	27.9
Rotherham PCT	82	253,214	16.2
Salford PCT	35	216,428	8.1
Sandwell PCT	333	286,305	58.2
Sefton PCT	131	280,942	23.3
Sheffield PCT	99	520,679	9.5
Shropshire County PCT	80	289,021	13.8
Solihull Care Trust	125	200,886	31.1
Somerset PCT	120	515,617	11.6
South Birmingham PCT	76	337,786	11.2
South East Essex PCT	111	325,814	17.0
South Gloucestershire PCT	77	248,091	15.5
South Staffordshire PCT	195	598,630	16.3
South Tyneside PCT	156	151,316	51.5
South West Essex PCT	67	384,494	8.7
Southampton City PCT	275	221,969	61.9
Southwark PCT	119	257,675	23.1
Stockport PCT	82	281,628	14.6
Stoke On Trent PCT	133	246,150	27.0
Suffolk PCT	49	577,378	4.2
Sunderland Teaching PCT	203	283,689	35.8
Surrey PCT	388	1,063,943	18.2
Sutton and Merton PCT	187	372,439	25.1
Swindon PCT	54	189,714	14.2
Tameside and Glossop PCT	103	247,338	20.8
Telford and Wrekin PCT	180	161,599	55.7
Torbay Care Trust	130	132,804	48.9
Tower Hamlets PCT	74	213,178	17.4
Trafford PCT	56	213,196	13.1
Wakefield District PCT	159	320,628	24.8
Walsall Teaching PCT	47	253,463	9.3
Waltham Forest PCT	109	224,067	24.3
Wandsworth PCT	59	281,394	10.5
Warrington PCT	105	194,711	27.0
Warwickshire PCT	311	533,939	29.1
West Essex PCT	90	273,220	16.5
West Hertfordshire PCT	290	529,771	27.4
West Kent PCT	305	655,725	23.3

Continuing care, primary care trusts (PCT)

PCT name	Number of people receiving continuing care	PCT population	Number per 50,000 population
West Sussex PCT	365	764,435	23.9
Western Cheshire PCT	93	232,468	20.0
Westminster PCT	239	244,365	48.9
Wiltshire PCT	135	446,616	15.1
Wirral PCT	70	313,079	11.2
Wolverhampton City PCT	127	239,610	26.5
Worcestershire PCT	270	555,832	24.3

Source:
Department of Health form LDPR 2007-08 Q1, Office for National Statistics 2005 mid-year population estimates.

Hearing Impaired: Waiting Times

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting times are for digital hearing aid *(a)* assessment and *(b)* fitting in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area. [157997]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest figures for July 2007 indicate that the number of people waiting over 13 weeks for an audiology assessment at Stockport Primary Care Trust was 1,296. The Department does not collect data on the numbers of people waiting to be fitted with a hearing aid.

Hospital Beds

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets were set for delayed discharge of patients aged *(a)* below 65 years and *(b)* 65 years and over in each year since 1997. [157704]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service plan contained a commitment to reduce widespread delayed discharges by 2004.

Councils and their NHS partners have already made significant progress in reducing delays in hospital. Between September 2001 and June 2007 the number of people over the age of 75 delayed in hospital reduced from 5,673 to 1,627, a reduction of 71 per cent., and total delays for the same period reduced from 7,065 to 2,173, a reduction of 69 per cent.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were of patients aged *(a)* below 65 years and *(b)* 65 years and over nationally in each year since 1997, broken down by health trust. [157705]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information has been placed in the Library.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was to the public purse of the Ipsos MORI research study on public engagement to inform the 2007 pandemic influenza national framework and supporting guidance, published on 30 May 2007; whether his Department is undertaking any other programmes of work to engage the public on plans to prioritise treatment in the event of an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [156772]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of the research study on public engagement was £59,000. After the publication of the "National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic" in the autumn, we will further test the public's reactions to many issues in pandemic planning and decision-making. This will include issues of prioritisation of access, should that be necessary, to clinical countermeasures. Work continues on the design of a public engagement programme to facilitate this process.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the modelling referred to in the paper published on his Department's website on 8 August 2007 entitled Use of antiviral drugs in an influenza pandemic. [156774]

Dawn Primarolo: The modelling summary referred to in the antiviral paper has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/sagpf/minutes/modelling-implications-summary-jan07.pdf.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential impact of an influenza pandemic on the *(a)* supply of and *(b)* demand for (i) blood and (ii) blood components; what steps he is taking to ensure an adequate supply of blood in the event of a pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [156778]

Dawn Primarolo: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), together with the Department modelling team, have created a series of planning assumptions based on the best available estimates of demand for blood, the experience within NHSBT and that of other blood services, and the best possible estimate of supply under these conditions. While supply is dependent upon donors continuing to make altruistic gestures during the pandemic the current estimate based on these assumptions is that, in the worst case scenario, supply could fall by about 20 to 30 per cent.

Likewise, the estimates that can be made for demand are based on best available evidence and current knowledge. NHSBT's conservative estimate is that current demand for red cells could fall by about 10 to 25 per cent., while the demand for fresh frozen plasma and platelets could reduce by lesser amounts, although it is possible that demand could fall further.

NHSBT has a well-developed emergency planning system, which includes specific plans covering pandemic influenza. NHSBT's plans are regularly reviewed and updated to keep them in line with the latest emerging guidance.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths resulting from influenza infection there were in each year since 1979; what the population coverage of seasonal influenza immunisation was in each year since 1979; and in which years since 1979 there were epidemics of seasonal influenza. [156780]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to determine the precise number of deaths due to influenza in a population because influenza itself is rarely the direct cause of death. Influenza may be complicated by bacterial infections, such as pneumonia, or may worsen an underlying illness, such as heart disease, and death results from the subsequent illness. In addition, by the time someone whose illness began with influenza gets to hospital, or dies, no evidence is apparent that the individual had influenza.

As a result, estimates of the number of deaths resulting from influenza epidemics are based on the number of deaths from all causes occurring during a period when influenza is circulating in the community, from which is subtracted the total number of deaths that would have been expected to have occurred in the absence of on influenza epidemic. This is generally referred to as the number of excess deaths due to influenza.

Estimates for excess deaths from influenza in England and Wales have been made by the Health Protection Agency for the 1988-89 to 2005-06 influenza seasons, and are given in the following table:

Estimated excess deaths due to influenza in England and Wales

Influenza season	*Number of excess deaths*
1988-89	358
1989-90	26,945
1990-91	8,125
1991-92	5,967
1992-93	1,687
1993-94	14,544
1994-95	2,480
1995-96	16,241
1996-97	21,770
1997-98	0
1998-99	17,982
1999-2000	22,040
2000-01	1,067
2001-02	7,078
2002-03	6,559
2003-04	5,207
2004-05	1,795
2005-06	0

Flu vaccine uptake in those aged 65 and over since 2000-01 is shown in the following table. Data were not held centrally prior to 2000-01.

	Uptake in those aged 65 and over (Percentage)
2000-01	65.4
2001-02	67.5
2002-03	68.6
2003-04	71.0
2004-05	71.5
2005-06	75.3
2006-07	74.0

Epidemic years have been classified as those in which "higher than average seasonal activity" has occurred. Since 1979, the following seasons would be classified as epidemic using this definition: 1989-90, 1993-94, 1996-97, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Influenza Pandemic

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1223W, on influenza pandemic, whether any of the stockpile of A/H5N1 vaccines have been used; at what cost the stockpile was purchased; and what the shelf-life of the vaccine is. [156749]

Dawn Primarolo: None of the current stockpile of H5N1 vaccine has been used. The stockpile was purchased at a cost of £33.4 million. Vaccine from two different manufacturers has been stockpiled. Vaccine from one manufacturer has a shelf life of two years and the vaccine from the other has a shelf life of 12 months, and is subject to on-going stability testing by the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control and the manufacturers.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds were available in England for those with mental health problems in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [157607]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is shown in the following table. The reduction in mental health bed numbers reflects the increasing provision by the national health service in England of treatment for patients with mental health conditions in primary care and community settings, without the need for hospital admissions.

Average daily beds available for acute mental health services in the national health service in England

	Number
1996-97	37,640
1997-98	36,601
1998-99	35,692
1999-2000	34,173
2000-01	34,214
2001-02	32,783
2002-03	32,753
2003-04	32,252
2004-05	31,286
2005-06	29,802
2006-07	27,914

Source:
Department of Health form KH03.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in England with mental health problems were prescribed *(a)* drug and *(b)* psychological treatment in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [157608]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Around 7 million adults in England have a common mental health problem, with approximately 90 per cent. of these people being treated in primary care. However, information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so reliable data are not available about the number of people who receive, or have received specific treatments, including those with mental health problems who have been prescribed drug treatments or psychological therapies.

We know that there is a significant level of unmet need for people suffering with depression and/or anxiety disorders. This is why the Government announced on 10 October their commitment to building a new psychological therapy service, with additional investment rising to £170 million over the next three years. By 2011, this service will help to treat 900,000 more people with depression, who would otherwise not have been treated.

Mentally Ill: Public Participation

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations his Department received from the voluntary sector about mental illness in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [157609]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected by the Department.

The Department is committed to working with all mental health stakeholders. The voluntary and community sector has had and continues to have a positive role in both helping to shape policy and its implementation, and in delivering services to people with mental illness.

Mentally Ill: Suicide

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many suicides were committed by those with mental illness in England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [157606]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of suicides by people in contact with mental health services in England in each year from 1997 to 2005 is as follows:

	Number
1997	1,203
1998	1,253
1999	1,258
2000	1,248
2001	1,258
2002	1,246
2003	1,235
2004	1,280
2005[1]	1,149

[1] 87 per cent. complete.

Information on suicides by people in contact with mental health services is collected by the National Confidential Inquiry (NCI) into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness. The NCI is funded by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) to ensure that everyone involved in mental health services learns and implements lessons from the factors associated with serious mental illness. The Department has been and remains committed to taking appropriate action in response to the inquiry's findings.

Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with the mobile phone industry on developing increased protection for users from radiation from prolonged mobile phone use; [157416]

(2) what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on developing greater protection for users from radiation from prolonged mobile phone use. [157418]

Dawn Primarolo: No discussions have taken place with the mobile phone industry or our European counterparts on such matters. Mobile phones comply with the international guidelines set out in the European Council Recommendation EC/519/1999.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation his Department has made of recent international research into the health effects of prolonged mobile phone use. [157417]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department receives advice from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on the health effects of electromagnetic fields and radiofrequency radiation exposure such as that emitted by mobile phones. The HPA's independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation published a comprehensive detailed review of mobile-phone related studies in "Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields" (Documents of the NRPB, Vol. 14, No. 2, 2003). This report and HPA advice are available on its website at www.hpa.org.uk/radiation. More recently a number of individual studies have been published and will be taken into account in the next detailed review. It may be appropriate to undertake such a review when the results of the large international INTERPHONE study are known.

The INTERPHONE study is being co-ordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a part of the World Health Organization located in Lyon, France. IARC published an update on 25 September 2007, in which it indicated the study is nearing completion and summarised the results from scientific papers that have already been published by some of the national components. The update is available at:

www.iarc.fr/ENG/Units/INTERPHONEresultsupdate.pdf

The programme management committee of the UK's Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme (MTHR) published a report on 12 September 2007. The MTHR report described the work it has supported in the United Kingdom and placed it in context with work going on in other parts of the world. The committee's report is available at:

www.mthr.org.uk/.

Modernising Medical Careers

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his response is to each of the questions in Sir John Tooke's interim report on medical careers. [157207]

Ann Keen: The Department would like to thank Sir John Tooke and his review group for investing so much time and expertise in providing recommendations for the future of medical training for 2009 and beyond. We will consider Sir John's findings carefully.

Since the interim report is out to consultation it is inappropriate to comment in detail to each of the questions raised.

NHS Treatment Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1200W, on NHS Treatment Centres, whether the review of NHS walk-in centre funding arrangements is complete; and when he plans to publish the review report. [156747]

Mr. Bradshaw: An initial review of NHS walk-in centres and their funding arrangements has been undertaken. Further work is now taking place as part of the package of measures announced in the interim report of the national health service next stage review, including the development of a strategy for primary and community care. The conclusions of this work will be published in due course.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many providers of clinical decision support software supply products to the NHS there are; which providers *(a)* supplied such software to the NHS in June 2005 and *(b)* supply software now; what steps he is taking to rationalise the number of software programmes used following the recommendation in paragraph 4.8 of Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance Services, published on 30 June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [156803]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not centrally hold information on providers of software used by all ambulance trusts in June 2005. Ambulance services across England now use only one call prioritisation system for 999 call handling, the internationally recognised Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System, with the exception of north-east ambulance service who are piloting NHS Pathways, and the Royal Berkshire area of south central ambulance service, who are using a computerised criteria based despatch system.

NHS: Research

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total allocated budget is for NHS research for each of the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [157929]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

£ million

National Institute for Health Research budget[1]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Revenue	829.8	879.4	942
Capital	50	50	50
Total	879.8	929.4	992

[1] Includes medical and dental research training.

NHS: Translation Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on translators in each of the last five years. [157702]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many matrons were employed in the NHS in each year since 1997. [156779]

Mr. Bradshaw: Modern matrons were recorded for the first time in the 2005 annual workforce census.

Prior to 2001, the pay grade "matron" had been obsolete for over 30 years as the number of nurse managers had been recorded in the national health service census with general and senior managers.

The September 2006 census showed there were 1,982 modern matrons in post, an increase of 376 or 23.4 per cent. since 2005. Numbers of community matrons were recorded for the first time in 2005. The September 2006 census showed there were 366 community matrons in post, an increase of 99 or 37.1 per cent. on 2005.

We are committed to increasing the number of community matrons and local development plans strongly suggest this is happening. Anecdotal evidence suggests there are more community matrons in post than the census suggests.

Personal Care Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place a note in the Library updating that of January 2004 on the costs of free personal care. [157780]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In England, the Government have accepted each of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on long-term care except the recommendation that personal care should be provided free at the point of delivery to all in all settings. We estimate that the cost of implementing free personal care in England would be around £1.5 billion at 2003-04 prices.

The Personal Social Services Research Unit has recently published 'Paying for Long-Term Care for Older People in the UK: Modelling the Costs and Distributional Effects of a Range of Options', which models a range of options for funding long-term care, including making personal care free to all in all settings.

The report gives estimated public expenditure costs at 2002 prices of between £1.35 billion and £1.8 billion, depending on the way in which free personal care is

implemented. This covers residential and home care for older people. It covers the whole of the United Kingdom. The England equivalent range would be about £1.2 billion to £1.6 billion. These estimates take account of limited offsetting savings of disability benefits.

Pharmacy

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost was of a medicines use review per patient in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the benefits to patients of such reviews; [156752]

(2) what percentage of medicines use reviews resulted in a change of drug treatment or dosage in 2006; [156753]

(3) how many medicines use reviews were conducted in Wirral in 2006; and at what cost; [156754]

(4) what factors are considered before a medicines use review is undertaken; [156755]

(5) what happens to the drugs prescribed to a patient before a treatment change as a result of a medicines use review. [156756]

Dawn Primarolo: Medicines use reviews (MUR) aim to improve patients' knowledge and use of the medicines prescribed for them, through a specific consultation between an accredited pharmacist and the patient. They may be triggered by concerns over patient concordance or where the patient is receiving medicines regularly and the pharmacist thinks a patient may benefit from an MUR. MURs can be conducted with patients on multiple medicines and those with long-term conditions, every 12 months. Primary care trusts (PCTs) can identify patient groups that would particularly benefit from such a review. Routine MURs, initiated by the pharmacist, must only be provided for patients who have been using the pharmacy for the dispensing of prescriptions for at least the previous three months.

The fee payable to accredited pharmacies providing this service increased from £23 to £25 per MUR from 1 October 2006, and from £25 to £27 per MUR from 1 October 2007.

In 2006-07, accredited pharmacies in the area covered by Wirral Primary Care Trust were paid £100,185 for providing 4,091 MURs. The Prescription Pricing Division (PPD) of the NHS Business Services Authority records the number of claims contractors make for MURs they have provided. The data for Wirral PCT were sourced from the PPD Information System and do not include adjustments for overpayments or the late submission of claims.

Information on the number of drug treatments or dosages changed as a result of an MUR is not collected centrally. The Department has not made any national assessment of the benefits of MURs.

Any dispensed medicines no longer required as a result of an MUR should be returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* HIV, *(b)* chlamydia, *(c)* gonorrhoea, *(d)* syphilis, *(e)* genital warts and *(f)* genital herpes there were in England in each year since 1997. [156792]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is provided in the following tables.

Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in England by year of diagnosis (1997-2006)—cumulative data to the end of June 2007

	Number
1997	2,542
1998	2,661
1999	2,943
2000	3,661
2001	4,837
2002	5,938
2003	6,916
2004	7,041
2005	7,115
2006[1]	6,595
Total	50,249

[1] Numbers will rise as further reports are received, particularly for recent years.

Note:
Table will include some records of the same individuals which are unmatchable because of differences in information supplied.

Source:
Health Protection Agency, new HIV diagnoses

New sexually transmitted infection diagnoses, England: 1997-2006

	Uncomplicated chlamydial infection	*Uncomplicated gonorrhoea*	*Primary and secondary infectious syphilis*	*Anogenital warts—first attack*	*Anogenital herpes simplex—first attack*
1997	38,839	14,178	147	58,711	15,079
1998	43,912	14,212	131	59,681	15,815
1999	50,960	17,361	211	61,157	15,880
2000	61,370	23,361	322	60,661	16,147
2001	68,180	25,852	717	62,423	17,054
2002	78,117	24,357	1,196	63,938	17,510
2003	85,516	23,492	1,538	65,279	17,157
2004	92,948	20,779	2,033	68,217	16,952

New sexually transmitted infection diagnoses, England: 1997-2006

	Uncomplicated chlamydial infection	*Uncomplicated gonorrhoea*	*Primary and secondary infectious syphilis*	*Anogenital warts—first attack*	*Anogenital herpes simplex—first attack*
2005	95,930	17,702	2,574	68,701	17,618
2006	99,230	17,445	2,515	70,988	19,388

Note:
The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in genito-urinary clinics (GUM) only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to the figures for those diagnosed with chlamydia in GUM clinics the total number of people who have been diagnosed with chlamydia within the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) since 2003-04 when the programme was launched, is given in the following table:

Diagnoses of Chlamydia in the NCSP

	Number
2003-04	1,756
2004-05	6,785
2005-06	10,384
2006-07	14,972
Total	33,897

Source:
National Chlamydia Screening Programme

Thrombosis

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussion the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and his Department's Implementation Working Group have had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the differences between the CMO's recommendations for the prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE) in hospitalised patients and the NICE guidelines on reducing the risk of VTE in patients undergoing surgery; and if he will make a statement. [154349]

Dawn Primarolo: The Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Anita Thomas OBE, the chair of the Implementation Working Group, have had discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence about improving the prevention and management of venous thromboembolism (VTE). The focus of these discussions has been on how all parties can work closely together to ensure that the risk of VTE can be minimised, for example by assessing what needs to be done to make a risk assessment for every hospitalised patient a reality.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 16 October 2007

WALES

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157925]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has operated one bilingual website since 2001 at a running cost of £1,600 per annum.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157926]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office operates one bilingual website. It does not record number of visitors.

General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [156991]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

SCOTLAND

Energy Supply

8. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on energy supply issues. [156896]

David Cairns: The Government's position on energy supply was set out clearly in our Energy White paper. The Scottish Executive has responded to the White Paper and to our consultation on nuclear energy.

Drugs in Prison

9. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next expects to meet Ministers from the Scottish Executive to discuss policy on drugs in prisons. [156897]

David Cairns: I have no plans to meet Scottish Ministers to discuss this matter.

Economic Trends

10. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of economic trends in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [156898]

11. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the performance of the Scottish economy in the last quarter. [156899]

Des Browne: Thanks to the policies of this Government the Scottish economy is performing admirably with economic growth of 2.4 per cent. for the year to Q1, which continues to exceed the long-term average, and extends an impressive run of 11 consecutive quarters of greater than trend growth.

International Aid

12. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister of Scotland on international aid and development. [156900]

David Cairns: No such discussions have taken place.

Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bid

13. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers on the Glasgow Commonwealth Games bid. [156901]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has been working closely with the Scottish Executive, DCMS and the Intellectual Property Office to facilitate and support Glasgow's bid for the 2014 Games.

Clean Coal

14. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the future for clean coal in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [156902]

David Cairns: As made clear in the Energy White Paper, the Government are working at a national and international level to develop clean coal technology. I have had a number of meetings with the coal industry and related sectors in Scotland at which clean coal technology has been discussed.

Wind Farms

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussion he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on generation of electricity by wind farms in Scotland. [156892]

Des Browne: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of energy matters, including generation from wind farms. In the last couple of months I have also met Scottish and Southern Energy, ScottishPower and Talisman Energy Ltd.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military and related personnel have been maimed or injured in Afghanistan since June 2006, broken down by *(a)* category and *(b)* severity of injury. [156590]

Derek Twigg: Information on casualty figures for Afghanistan can be found on the relevant section of the MOD website, which is updated twice per month at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

Between 1 June 2006 and 15 September 2007, field hospitals in Afghanistan recorded 842 admissions for UK military and civilian personnel. Of these, 249 were categorised as wounded in action, with the other 593 admitted for disease or non-battle injuries.

Over the same period, 33 personnel were recorded as very seriously injured or wounded and 36 as seriously injured or wounded.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel have lost limbs, or parts thereof, from mine strikes in Afghanistan on *(a)* WMIK and *(b)* Snatch Landrover vehicles. [157162]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK infantry units in Afghanistan are not equipped with the Blue Force tracker system. [157305]

Des Browne: No UK infantry units are equipped with the Blue Force tracker system, which is a US system. All formed company-level UK infantry units in Afghanistan are equipped with Bowman, which provides a blue force tracking capability. Other systems are also available to UK forces in Afghanistan. I am withholding details of the distribution of free standing blue force tracking systems as their release would prejudice the safety or security of our armed forces.

Armed Forces: Commonwealth

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruits from the new Commonwealth have applied to have their *(a)* spouse and *(b)* children join them in the UK in each of the last five years; and how many have applied for British citizenship since becoming members of the armed forces. [156325]

Derek Twigg: It is very much a personal decision as to whether non-British personnel bring their families over to the UK to join them, and whether serving members of the armed forces apply for British citizenship. The information requested is therefore not recorded by the Department.

Armed Forces: Correspondence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of lost mail between military personnel and their families have been recorded in the last 12 months. [157049]

Derek Twigg: The British Forces Post Office handles approximately 92 million items of mail per year. Between October 2006 and October 2007 there have been 520 confirmed claims for non-delivery of mail.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will undertake a review of the provision of post-operative rehabilitation services available to members of the armed forces who have suffered injury while carrying out their duties; and if he will make a statement. [158716]

Derek Twigg: MOD has excellent medical rehabilitation services. If military patients require further rehabilitation care following initial hospital treatment, they may be referred to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court in Surrey, which is the principal medical rehabilitation centre run by the armed forces and widely praised for its work. DMRC provides both physiotherapy and group rehabilitation for complex musculo-skeletal injuries, plus neuro-rehabilitation for brain-injured patients, after they have completed their hospital care.

In exceptional circumstances, where specialist care is required that cannot be provided at Headley Court, such as cases of severe brain trauma, patients may be referred to specialist facilities in either NHS or private facilities.

The Complex Rehabilitation and Amputee Unit, based within DMRC, provides high quality prosthetics and adaptations, manufactured on site and individually tailored as necessary to the specific patient. Priority is given to the provision of prosthetics to enable service personnel to resume service duties. In July 2007, I opened officially a new 30-bed annex at Headley Court, providing accommodation for low-dependency patients.

Personnel with less serious musculo-skeletal injuries may also be referred to one of MOD's 15 Regional Rehabilitation Units in the UK and Germany, which provide accessible, regionally-based assessment and treatment, including physiotherapy and group rehabilitation facilities. They are staffed by specially trained doctors, physiotherapists and rehabilitation instructors, and enable patients to be assessed and treated in a timely fashion, with the aim of returning them to operational fitness when this is clinically possible.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the disposals made to fund the £80 million towards single living accommodation announced on 25 September; and how much was generated by each. [157034]

Derek Twigg: This additional investment is not directly linked to one specific disposal.

Army: Drugs

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the principal conclusions are of the 12 month study by the Directorate of Army personnel strategy begun in April 2006, with particular reference to the reasons given for drug use by those who tested positive for *(a)* cannabis only, *(b)* ecstasy only and *(c)* cocaine only. [157337]

Derek Twigg: The research report 'Prevention of Drug Misuse in the Army' study, which is being conducted by the Directorate of Army Personnel Strategy, has not yet concluded.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason no debate, consultation or oral statement took place in the House before the decision announced in his written statement of 25 July to allow the installation and operation by the US Administration of equipment to allow receipt of satellite warnings of potentially hostile missile launches at RAF Menwith Hill; and whether any intelligence received via the installation will be made available to the United Kingdom at the same time as to the United States. [157315]

Des Browne: Defence Ministers routinely answer written and oral questions on missile defence issues and there are regular defence debates scheduled throughout the year to allow MPs to raise specific issues on the Floor of the House. My written ministerial statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 71WS was intended to keep the House informed of developments in areas of UK support to the US missile defence programme.

The missile attack warning information to be routed through RAF Menwith Hill will be shared between the UK and US, as indicated in my written statement of 25 July 2007.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the UK and US governments on the formal use of RAF Menwith Hill in the American Missile Defense System; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [157779]

Des Browne: There is no memorandum of understanding covering these specific arrangements.

D Notices

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many D-Notices were issued by the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee in each year since 1997. [158231]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* D Notices were replaced by the Defence Advisory (DA) Notice system in 1993. There are five standing DA Notices that constitute a voluntary code that provides guidance to the United Kingdom media on the publication and broadcasting of national security information. They cover:

DA Notice No 1: Military Operations and Plans;

DA Notice No 2: Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Weapons and Equipment;

DA Notice No 3: Ciphers and Secure Communications;

DA Notice No 4: Sensitive Installations and Home Addresses;

DA Notice No 5: United Kingdom Security and Intelligence Service and;

Special Services.

These are published at:

www.dnotice.org.uk.

Additional guidance is issued on behalf of the Committee by its Secretary to all editors in the United Kingdom to cover specific circumstances or to meet particular concerns. Since January 1997, the Committee Secretary has written to all UK editors on the following occasions in relation to various DA Notices:

1997: No record of any letter being issued;

1998: No record of any letter being issued;

1999: Three letters;

2000: Two letters;

2001: Three letters;

2002: One letter;

2003: Two letters;

2004: Two letters;

2005: Two letters;

2006: Two letters;

2007: Seven letters.

The Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee Secretary may also write on behalf of the Committee to a particular editor, author or broadcaster when a breach in the DA Notice guidance is judged to have occurred. Such letters are written on a 'personal and in confidence' basis, to remind the editor, broadcaster or author concerned of the content of the code and the availability of advice. Since January 1997, the Secretary has written to individual editors on the following occasions:

1997: One letter;

1998: No record of any letters being issued;

1999: Two letters;

2000: Five letters;

2001: Five letters;

2002: Six letters;

2003: Four letters;

2004: Three letters;

2005: Four letters;

2006: Nil;

2007: Nil.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Offices

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the overseas offices of the Defence Export Services Organisation are situated; when each office was established; how many staff are employed in each; and what the cost of each *(a)* was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07 and *(b)* is expected to be in 2007-08. [156339]

Des Browne: The information on overseas offices of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) is set out in the following table. The entries for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia refer to trade promotion offices. These are separate from the Project Offices in those countries, information about which I gave the hon. Member in a written answer on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 504W. The two project offices were established in Saudi Arabia in 1987, and in Kuwait in 1993. Customer governments meet the costs of the project offices and I am withholding that information as its release would be likely to prejudice relations with those governments.

DESO Overseas Offices

Office	*Date established*	*Staff numbers April 2007*[1]	*Cost 2005-06 (£000)*[2]	*Cost 2006-07 (£000)*[2]	*Cost 2007-08 (£000)*[2]
Kuwait	1988	2	89	128	135
India	1984	5	177	136	177
Libya	2006	1	—	60	114
UAE	1999	2	77	101	81
Qatar[3]	1998	1	100	91	27
Oman	2003	3	204	218	238
Saudi Arabia	2004	1	95	101	103
Brunei	1995	2	117	125	130
Australia	1989	2	84	81	100
South Korea	1988	3	184	269	242
Japan	2003	2	145	107	169
Singapore[4]	2001	0	98	160	-
Malaysia	1986	5	190	173	167
Vietnam	2005	1	7	16	17
Turkey	1998	1	32	31	41
Chile	2003	2	134	175	92
Romania	2004	2	110	141	144
Greece	2000	2	117	130	141
Brazil	2003	1	12	12	15
South Africa	2000	1	82	88	80
Trinidad and Tobago[5]	2005	—	111	24	—

[1] Figures include locally employed staff. Part-time staff are counted as whole.
[2] Costs for 2007-08, and some costs in the earlier years, have been estimated.
[3] Office closed June 2007.
[4] Office closed in March 2007 [5] Post discontinued January 2007.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157864]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft programme; and if he will make a statement. [157953]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: AirTanker Ltd, the Department's Preferred Bidder, is currently undertaking a funding competition to raise the required private finance for the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft procurement. The consortium aims to complete this process as soon as possible.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour intervals are for each unit deploying to Iraq in the autumn. [154252]

Des Browne: Details of the most recent tour intervals for the formed Army units due to deploy to Iraq in November and December are as follows:

Unit	*Tour Interval (months)*
The Royal Dragoon Guards	31
1st Bn Scots Guards	31
The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland[1]	1 Royal Scots: 18 1 King's Own Scottish Borderers: 16
1st Bn The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border)[2]	n/a
1st Bn The Cheshire Regiment	37
21 Engineer Regiment	31

[1] Royal Scots and 1 King's Own Scottish Borderers amalgamated to form The Royal Scots Borderers in August 06.
[2] King's Own Royal Border Regiment, 1 King's Regiment and the 1 Queen's Lancashire Regiment amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 Lancashire Regiment and 2 Lancashire Regiment. Op TELIC 11 will be the first unit operational deployment for 1 Lancashire Regiment.

The formation of 1 Lancashire Regiment and 2 Lancashire Regiment involved the amalgamation of 1 King's Own Royal Border Regiment, 1 King's Regiment and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, with both of the new regiments containing personnel from each of the three original regiments. It is not possible therefore to calculate meaningful historic average tour intervals for 1 Lancashire Regiment but, for information, 1 King's Own Royal Border Regiment returned from its previous deployment in April 2006 (equivalent to an 18 months interval) and 1 King's Regiment and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment returned from their previous deployments in October 2003 (equivalent to a 50 month tour interval).

Royal Air Force ground units operate differently to those of the Army. While a unit might be deployed for four months, RAF personnel can rotate through the unit rather than remain deployed with it throughout. Therefore unit and personnel tour intervals are not necessarily the same.

Unit	*Tour Interval (based upon last operational tour and current deployment)*
2 Force Protection Wing Headquarters	12 months
34 Sqn Force Protection	12 months

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total annual cost was to the *(a)* defence budget and *(b)* reserve of payments made to servicemen arising from service in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in the latest period for which figures are available. [157086]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: The net additional cost for service personnel for service in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last period for which figures are available is as follows:

Operating cost 2006-07

Service manpower	*£000 Total outturn*
Iraq	99,779
Afghanistan	49,487

These net additional costs are met from the HM Treasury Reserve and not from the Defence budget.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft are in service in the RAF, broken down by type. [157047]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 509W.

Military Aircraft: Manpower

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of those who set out to be pilots of *(a)* Eurofighter, *(b)* GR7 Harrier, *(c)* Merlin, *(d)* Lynx, *(e)* Sea King, *(f)* Chinook and *(g)* Apache were successful in each of the last three years. [157076]

Derek Twigg: After extensive early flying training, the RAF personnel are streamed, according to aptitude into one of three streams: Fast-jet (FJ), Rotary-wing (RW) or Multi-engine (ME). All of the Army personnel go to RW, most of the Navy personnel follow this same route, although some go on to FJ training. All of this ab initio training is conducted within the Air Force system.

Following successful completion of ab initio training pilots enter an Operational Conversion Unit (OCU) where they learn to operate the specific aircraft type for which they have been selected. The following table shows pass rates for pilots entering the OCU:

	Successful (percentage)
2004-05	
Typhoon	100
GR7 Harrier	92
Merlin	100
Lynx	100
Sea King	100
Chinook	94
Apache	95
2005-06	
Typhoon	100
GR7 Harrier	100
Merlin	100
Lynx	100
Sea King	100
Chinook	100
Apache	98
2006-07	
Typhoon	97
GR7 Harrier	100
Merlin	100
Lynx	98
Sea King	100
Chinook	94
Apache	89

Notes:
1. All totals have been rounded to the nearest whole percent.
2. Factors affecting success include: Failure to achieve course standards, medical downgrading and premature voluntary retirement. Unsuccessful candidates may be given employment elsewhere within the Service.

Nuclear Weapons: Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether approval has been granted for the main gate business case for the Defence Nuclear Weapons Transportation Continuation project. [157793]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Main Gate Business Case for the Nuclear Weapon Transportation Capability Continuation Project was approved on 7 May 2007.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the option to use a refurbished truck cargo heavy duty trailer for future high security vehicle or special nuclear material movements is still under consideration. [157794]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason it is his Department's policy that convoys carrying special nuclear materials should not look the same as convoys carrying nuclear weapons; and if he will make a statement. [157796]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The nature of individual convoys will determine their constitution. I am withholding details of the procedures governing convoy operations as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security and defence of the UK.

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many roulements have been delayed in entering theatre due to aircraft availability in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since 2001. [157039]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Each roulement involves a large number of flights.

Inevitably, some individual flights are delayed for a range of reasons. As far as our records can determine, however, in no instance since 2001 has there been a significant overall delay to a roulement, with the timing of the Transfer of Authority from the departing to the arriving force structures going ahead essentially as originally planned.

RAF Blenheim Crescent

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role is of RAF Blenheim Crescent; and for what reason it was divested to the United States Air Force on 1 October 2007. [157777]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Blenheim Crescent is currently undergoing a programme of renovation works. Upon completion of these works the following units will be based there; the European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, the US Army International Technology Center Atlantic, the Office of Naval Research Global, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Joint NATO National Support Element, the Defense Energy Support Center and the Fleet Industrial Supply Center.

Blenheim Crescent was transferred to the United States Air Force for administrative purposes following the disestablishment of the Commander US Naval Activities in the UK.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many US *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy, *(c)* Marines, *(d)* Airforce, *(e)* civilians and *(f)* contractors are working at RAF Blenheim Crescent. [157778]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Blenheim Crescent is currently vacant as the building is undergoing renovation. The US plans to move around 120 personnel into Blenheim Crescent over a period of several months with the first expected to arrive in November 2007. A precise breakdown of the final figure is not yet available although under current plans it is expected that the majority of personnel, around 50, will be employed by the US Navy with around 30 for the US Army and 25 for the US Air Force. The remainder will be a mix of contractors and civilian staff.

Sea King Helicopters

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the age is of each Sea King helicopter operated by the Department; and if he will make a statement. [157575]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the age of each Sea King helicopter currently operated by the Department.

Sea King helicopter ages

Tail No.	*A/C Mk*	*Age of aircraft (years)*
XV647	5	38
XV648	5	38
XV649	7	38
XV656	7	38
XV661	5	38
XV664	7	37
XV666	5	37
XV670	5	37
XV671	7	37
XV672	7	37
XV673	5	37
XV676	6C	37
XV697	7	37

Sea King helicopter ages

Tail No.	*A/C Mk*	*Age of aircraft (years)*
XV699	5	36
XV700	6C	36
XV703	6C	36
XV705	5	36
XV707	7	36
XV714	7	35
XZ578	5	31
XZ580	6C	30
XZ585	3	30
XZ586	3	30
XZ587	3	30
XZ588	3	30
XZ589	3	30
XZ590	3	30
XZ591	3	29
XZ592	3	29
XZ593	3	29
XZ594	3	29
XZ595	3	29
XZ596	3	29
XZ597	3	29
XZ598	3	29
XZ599	3	29
XZ920	5	28
XZ922	6C	28
ZA105	3	27
ZA126	7	27
ZA130	5	27
ZA134	5	26
ZA137	5	26
ZA166	5	25
ZA167	5	25
ZA291	4	28
ZA292	4	28
ZA293	4	27
ZA295	4	27
ZA296	4	27
ZA297	4	27
ZA298	4	26
ZA299	4	26
ZA310	4	26
ZA312	4	26
ZA313	4	26
ZA314	4	25
ZB507	4	25
ZD476	4	23
ZD477	4	24
ZD479	4	24
ZD480	4	24
ZD625	4	23
ZD626	4	23
ZD627	4	23
ZD636	7	23
ZE368	3	22
ZE369	3	22
ZE370	3	22
ZE418	7	22
ZE420	7	21
ZE422	7	21
ZE425	4	22

Sea King helicopter ages

Tail No.	*A/C Mk*	*Age of aircraft (years)*
ZE426	4	22
ZE427	4	22
ZE428	4	22
ZF115	4	21
ZF116	4	21
ZF117	4	21
ZF118	4	21
ZF119	4	21
ZF120	4	21
ZF121	4	21
ZF122	4	21
ZF123	4	21
ZF124	4	20
ZG820	4	17
ZG821	4	17
ZG822	4	17
ZH540	3A	12
ZH541	3A	12
ZH542	3A	12
ZH543	3A	12
ZH544	3A	12
ZH545	3A	10

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours of service and maintenance were needed to support one hour of flying for the Sea King helicopter fleet in each year from 1990-91 to 2006-07; what his estimate is of the equivalent figure for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [157576]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of maintenance hours needed to support one hour of flying for the Sea King helicopter fleet are shown in the following table:

	Number
1998-99	18.3
1999-2000	15.3
2000-01	15.0
2001-02	18.5
2002-03	20.1
2003-04	23.2
2004-05	22.2
2005-06	21.9
2006-07	17.9
2007-08	[1]15.2

[1] The 2007-08 hours are those recorded to date (i.e. up to 10 October 2007).

The hours prior to 1998-99 are not available from a central source and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fisheries: Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1800W, on fisheries: protection, what factors were taken into account in deciding to reduce the number of patrol days per year; and what the basis was for the assessment that the operational needs could be delivered through fewer days. [157564]

Jonathan Shaw: The key factors that were taken into account were the cost of the provision of the service to the Marine and Fisheries Agency, the available budget and future operational needs. The 700 patrol days for 2008-09 will be delivered by the River Class Patrol Vessels. These vessels are purpose built and more effective and efficient for the equivalent time at sea than the Hunt Class vessels, which provide some of the current patrol time.

Floods: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government expects flood defences to be put in place for the river *(a)* Whitting, *(b)* Hipper and *(c)* Rother. [157398]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Strategy on the Don Catchment will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete. A decision about flood risk measures will be made following its completion.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what guidance the Commissioners follow on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158600]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners do not have a formal target for responding to such correspondence but they do aim to respond in the shortest time reasonably possible. I believe that hon. Members receive from the Commissioners sufficiently swift responses or holding replies where the matter requires more detailed research.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what guidance the Commission follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158593]

Nick Harvey: The Commission receives relatively little correspondence from hon. Members but answers some 300 parliamentary questions a year. Parliamentary questions

are answered whenever possible within the normal targets and other correspondence is dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

Departments: Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many people work on the Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate. [158623]

Nick Harvey: About 4,700 people work in the nine buildings of the House of Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate. Apart from 646 Members, there are about 1,200 MPs' staff, 1,700 staff of the House and up to 1,200 contractors' staff (many of whom work for both Houses).

Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the Commission's policy on whistleblowing. [158233]

Nick Harvey: The House is not within the scope of the relevant sections of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. However, the staff handbook, which is available on the parliamentary intranet, does contain sections on safeguarding official information (section 5.18), crises of conscience (section 5.28) and grievance (section 6). These are supported by a core values statement on integrity, in serving the House of Commons, its Committees and Members, and the public with honesty, probity and political impartiality. The statement can be found in House of Commons corporate business plan 2007 which is also available on the intranet.

Escalators

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the original life expectancy was of the escalators installed to access Portcullis House; how long elapsed before they were replaced; how much the recent works to install new escalators at this location have cost; and for what reason the motion sensitivity feature is not being deployed. [158234]

Nick Harvey: Escalators of this type would be expected to have a life expectancy of about 10 years—those in Portcullis House were installed in 1999 and replaced after eight years in 2007. The tender cost was £327,000 and the project was completed on budget. The motion sensitivity feature is not currently operational as a precautionary measure due to a component in similar escalator being found to be faulty. It is anticipated that the motion facility will be re-instated for Monday 12 November 2007.

Food: Allergies

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what training and advice staff in the Refreshment Department receive on food allergies. [158622]

Nick Harvey: Food handlers working in the House of Commons Refreshment Department receive training on food allergy risks and control procedures as part of their food hygiene training. Over 250 staff have attended foundation or basic level training, and more than 10 per cent. of staff are further trained to intermediate or advanced level. Specific allergy awareness training was delivered to approximately 40 staff in November to December 2006. In consultation with an external specialist, the Department is currently in the process of designing and coordinating a tailored programme of food allergy training, to be delivered to all food handlers over the next six months.

Procedures for managing the risks and control of food allergens are set out in the Department's Food Safety Manual, which is regularly reviewed, updated and promulgated to staff. Further guidance is set out in the publication "Allergy Catering Manual", a copy of which is provided to food procurement and food stores staff as well as being available in each kitchen.

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the Refreshment Department last reviewed its policies and procedures on food allergies. [158624]

Nick Harvey: The Refreshment Department last reviewed its policies and procedures on food allergies in January 2007. This was carried out in consultation with the Department's retained food hygiene adviser, Hygiene Audit Systems, who have to date provided food allergy training to 800 environmental health practitioners under a contract awarded by the Food Standards Agency.

The Department's Food Safety Policy and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Manual, which sets out procedures for food handlers in respect of the control of food allergens, was last reviewed by Westminster city council's Environmental Health Officer as part of their regular inspection of the House of Commons catering premises in March 2007.

Portcullis House: Refrigerators

Lynne Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the efficiency rating is of refrigerators installed in hon. Members' offices in Portcullis House; and what advice is issued to hon. Members about maximising the efficiency of those refrigerators. [157585]

Nick Harvey: The efficiency rating of the fridges installed in hon. Members' offices in Portcullis House is A. Improving the efficiency by fitting energy saving controls and removing the doors to the cupboards containing the fridges is being considered at present. Written advice on maximising the efficiency of the fridges is to be issued shortly to hon. Members.

Press Gallery: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on the refurbishment of the press gallery. [158669]

Nick Harvey: The refurbishment of the Press Gallery has been a project to modernise accommodation used by the journalists and political correspondents based in the Palace of Westminster for the purposes of reporting on the business of Parliament. The press have had a recognised presence in the House of Commons since 1803, when Speaker Abbott ruled that they should have privileged access to the Gallery.

The Press Gallery is one of the last areas of the Palace to be modernised. Over the 2006 summer recess, the House of Commons began the first phase of the project to bring the offices in line with workplace health and safety and disability discrimination regulations. The second and final phase of works was completed over the 2007 summer recess, during which the entire Press Gallery was decanted. The project also involved refitting and updating the catering facilities in that area of the Palace in order to make more efficient use of the space. The final handover of office accommodation and the new catering facilities took place on 15 October.

The project was completed at a total cost of £7.71 million to the House. As well as modern office accommodation, the improved facilities include a new kitchen and a multi-purpose restaurant and cafe/bar, to be called "Moncrieff's". The refurbished Press Gallery will be launched by Mr. Speaker on 20 November.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Fixed Penalties

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157887]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not incurred any fixed penalty tickets, within its purview, in the last year.

Sports: Community Development

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what effect he expects the establishment of a sporting village to have on the local community. [158664]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 743W.

Swimming Pools

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many diving pits there are in England; and where each is located. [158741]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Active Places database lists 64 diving pools which can be defined as diving pits using the following criteria—an indoor pool specifically for diving which is usually square in shape and deeper than the main pool.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 335-36W, for the location of these 64 diving facilities.

In addition and since my reply of 8 October 2007, a new diving pool/pit has opened in Leeds. This facility will be included on the Active Places database in due course.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 334-6W, on swimming pools, (1) how many diving pools have *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in England since 1997; and how many of the diving pools are open to the public; [158744]

(2) how many of these diving pools are open to the general public. [158746]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on diving pool closures across England was not collected centrally prior to 2004, when the Active Places sports facilities database was established. We are aware that two diving pools have closed permanently since that time (William Thompson Recreation Centre, Burnley and Edmonton Leisure Centre).

64 diving pools listed on Active Places are usually accessible to the public. However, one (Crystal Palace Sports Centre) is temporarily closed for refurbishment. Six of these diving pools have been newly built since 1997 and a further 15 refurbished over the same period.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 334-6W, on swimming pools, how many of the diving pools referred to provide a 10 metre high diving board. [158745]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are aware of six diving pools listed on the Active Places database which provide 10 metre high diving boards. They are located in: Leeds; London; Manchester; Plymouth; Sheffield; and Southampton. Five of these facilities are currently available for use and one (London) is closed temporarily for refurbishment.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received on proposals for a combined equality duty. [157757]

Barbara Follett: We have received around 1,000 responses on the Government's proposals for a single equality duty from a variety of stakeholders including public authorities, equality stakeholders and individuals. We are currently considering these responses and will publish a formal Government response to the consultation in due course.

Gender: Equality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans she has to protect transgender people from discrimination, beyond those who have had, or seek, gender reassignment; and if she will make a statement. [157756]

Barbara Follett: The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 provides protection from discrimination to people who intend to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone gender reassignment in the area of employment and vocational training. Our recent consultation "A Framework for Fairness" set out our proposals for implementing the EU Gender Directive and for a single Equality Bill, including proposals to extend the current protection on grounds of gender reassignment to the area of goods, facilities, services, premises and public functions. We have received a wealth of representations on the issue of widening the group of people protected under these provisions and are continuing to consider carefully people's views and the range of evidence that has been provided.

JUSTICE

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for animal cruelty were brought in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [158712]

Mr. Hanson: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of animal cruelty in Lancashire, and England and Wales from 2001 to 2005 are shown in the following table. Data for 2006 will be available in November 2007. Charging statistics are not held by my Department.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court for offences relating to cruelty to animals, in England and Wales and Lancashire police force area for the years 2001 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Lancashire	46	51	39	32	43
England and Wales	1,121	1,145	1,106	1,117	1,227

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Source: Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Dangerous Driving

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals for legislation to provide for an offence of causing the death of an unborn baby by dangerous driving; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [158376]

Mr. Hanson: There are no current plans to introduce a specific offence of causing death of an unborn child by dangerous driving. We do not believe such an offence is necessary. Dangerous driving is already an offence. If an unborn child is killed but the mother survives, the driver could be charged with causing the mother grievous bodily harm under section 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 if they acted recklessly. We have received one petition with 910 signatures about this issue.

Family Courts

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether there are plans to require parties in children's cases to attend a meeting with a mediator; [157507]

(2) whether there are plans to change family proceedings rules to require parties in children's cases to meet a mediator before proceeding; [157508]

(3) if he will require the parties in cases concerning residence of children and contact to attend a mediation assessment before commencing court proceedings. [157509]

Bridget Prentice: Parties applying for public funding under the Community Legal Service are already required to attend a meeting with a mediator to consider mediation. This requirement may be waived if there are special circumstances such as domestic violence or the case is very urgent.

The Government continue to encourage the greater use of family mediation but do not believe that it should be made compulsory or that all parties in disputes over child residence and contact should be required to attend a meeting with a mediator.

The Government will make changes to court rules and application forms to facilitate referrals to family mediation where the court considers this would be beneficial.

The Children and Adoption Act 2006 when fully implemented will enable the court to direct parties to attend a meeting to learn about mediation in cases where it considers this is appropriate.

Featherstone Prison: Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the usable operational life expectancy is of the rapid build residential units at HMP Featherstone. [158349]

Mr. Hanson: The Rapid Build Residential Unit (64 places), opened in July 2007, has a 40 year life expectancy.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison places created since 1997 are in accommodation with an operational life expectancy of less than 10 years. [158342]

Mr. Hanson: The modular temporary units providing 1,160 prison places, installed in the financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04, have an estimated life expectancy of less than 10 years.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison places created since 1997 have been created by putting more prisoners in existing cells. [158346]

Mr. Hanson: Of the over 20,000 prison places provided since 1997, around 3,000 have been created by placing more prisoners in existing accommodation.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many spaces in modular temporary units built between 2002 and 2006 the Ministry expects to reach the end of their useful operational life in each of the next five years. [158347]

Mr. Hanson: Condition surveys are currently being undertaken to establish the condition of the modular temporary units provided in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 and a forecast of each one's remaining operational life.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison spaces are in modular temporary units; and how many of these have been in use for *(a)* more than five years, *(b)* between four and five years, *(c)* between three and four years and *(d)* less than three years. [158350]

Mr. Hanson: The 1,160 prison places provided in modular temporary units were delivered between August 2002 and August 2003 and all units are still in use.

Prison Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many investigations are ongoing at HM Prison Service Investigation Support Unit; what proportion of these are staff disciplinary matters; and if he will make a statement. [157574]

Mr. Hanson: On 10 October HM Prison Service's Investigation Support Section held on file details of 547 open investigations. All of these investigations are noted on this database as being conducted under the terms of PSO 8460 Conduct and Discipline.

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the evidential basis is upon which his Department projects the rate of expansion in the prison population to 2010-11. [158344]

Mr. Hanson: Prison population projections are calculated using a range of mathematical models. The evidential basis for these calculations is a mixture of observed prison population data, sentencing data (wherever this is possible) and stakeholder assumptions. The stakeholders are experts drawn from the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and across the Criminal Justice System. The latest projections were published in the Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin "Prison population projections 2007-2014, England and Wales" (August 2007).

This is available on the Ministry of Justice website (http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm). The models used in the calculations are described in Annex C and the stakeholder assumptions in Annex B of the Statistical Bulletin. Copies of the Statistical Bulletin will be sent to the Libraries of the House.

Prisoners Release: Drugs

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners died of a drugs overdose or drugs related illness while on early release in each of the last three years. [157844]

Mr. Hanson: A comprehensive treatment framework is available in prisons to address the problems caused by substance misuse. This includes:

clinical interventions;

CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service);

intensive drug treatment programmes.

CARAT teams offer harm minimisation advice and work closely with the Drug Interventions Programme and Offender Managers in making the necessary throughcare arrangements to ensure continuity of drug treatment on release.

Drug users can experience a reduced tolerance to drugs from their time in custody, which can increase the risk of drug related overdose on release. The prison treatment framework is designed to reduce that risk.

Improved quality of clinical treatment is being introduced in 53 prisons through IDTS[1], which will see maintenance prescribing much more widely used according to need and will reduce considerably the risk of overdose on release.

The information requested is not directly available. The latest research shows that newly-released prisoners are at considerably increased risk of a drugs overdose compared to their peers in the community, particularly in the first two weeks after release.

However, the research relates to a period prior to the introduction of the treatment framework and does not reflect the most recent advances in prison treatment.

[1] Integrated Drug Treatment System

Prisoners: Females

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Government will publish its response to the Corston review. [158351]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have given a broad welcome to the report. The 43 recommendations which it makes are wide-ranging and propose action by a number of different Government Departments and organisations. We are carefully exploring the best way of taking forward the recommendations with all the Departments and agencies concerned and will publish a detailed response by late autumn.

Prisoners: Transsexuality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidelines are in place for dealing with transgender prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [157760]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners are entitled to receive the full range of NHS services. In rare cases where a prisoner has or has had a gender dysphoria, a draft prison service order has been prepared. This contains

guidance on the management, treatment and care of these prisoners—both pre and post-operative transsexual people.

This document is currently subject to a formal consultation exercise involving a wide range of stakeholders. The document will be reviewed in light of the comments received and issued at the beginning of next year. Copies will be placed in the Library.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plans to legislate to give convicted prisoners the right to vote following the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in Hirst *v.* UK. [158397]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are currently considering how to take forward the implementation of the Hirst judgment in light of the first stage consultation on this issue.

Prisons: Education

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment his Department has made of the value of courses on enhanced thinking skills for convicted prisoners. [157711]

Mr. Hanson: In 2004 RDS commissioned a qualitative study to examine programme experience of prisoners completing cognitive skills training (Clarke et al. 2004). Both prisoners and staff reported short term benefits for prisoners such as improved prisoner behaviour; increased self-confidence; enhanced literacy skills and better interpersonal skills. Completion of cognitive skills also helped to prepared prisoners for other offending behaviour programmes.

A randomised control trial of ETS, commissioned by Research, Development and Statistics—National Offender Management Service (RDS NOMS) will be published in December 2007. This will robustly evaluate the immediate impact of ETS on interim measures of thinking and prison behaviour. The current RDS NOMS programme also includes further research on the effectiveness of other Offending Behaviour Programmes based on rigorous research designs.

Prisons: Information

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what categories of information not held centrally within HM Prison Service are collected across *(a)* HM Prison Service regions and *(b)* HM Prison establishments; by what means such information is collected; and if he will make a statement. [158454]

Mr. Hanson: Prison establishments hold detailed records and reports on individual prisoners and members of staff and local operational records in a variety of electronic and paper formats. While much of these data can be interrogated centrally, there are some questions that can only be answered by analysing paper files manually, and therefore at disproportionate cost. Information held in HM Prison Service area offices is normally accessible centrally for the purpose of answering parliamentary questions.

Public Defender Service

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Public Defender Service and the role it will play in the criminal justice system. [157414]

Maria Eagle: The Government commissioned an independent team of leading academics to undertake a full assessment of the Public Defender Service (PDS) pilot. The report concluded that the PDS has established a reputation amongst clients and other criminal justice professionals for the robust and independent defence of its clients. The final report entitled "Evaluation of the Public Defender Service in England and Wales" was published on 8 January 2007 and can be found on the Legal Services Commission's website and in the Libraries of the House.

Repossession Orders: Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* mortgage repossession claims and *(b)* mortgage repossession orders were made in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [158272]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of mortgage repossession claims issued and mortgage repossession orders made in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07.

Number of mortgage repossession claims issued and orders made in the county courts of England and Wales, 1996-97 and 2006-07[1]

	Claims issued	*Orders made*[2] *(inc. suspended orders)*
1996-97	72,169	65,555
2006-07	132,781	91,131

[1] Figures for 2007 Q2 are available online at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all orders result in the properties actually being repossessed.

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the Solicitors Regulation Authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [157849]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) is funded by the solicitors' profession through the Law Society and incurs no cost to the public purse.

Some public funding is given, however, to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) which, although independent of both the SRA and the Law Society, is

an integral element of the profession's disciplinary arrangements. This funding amounted to £55,569.47 in the financial year from April 2006 to March 2007; and £49,259.49 in the calendar year from January to September 2007. These figures include spends on SDT fees, social security contributions and travel and subsistence payments.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the full membership of the Solicitors Regulation Authority is; and when members were appointed. [157850]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) board consists of 16 members—nine solicitors (one of whom chairs the board) and seven lay people. Board members were appointed for a term of four years from 1 January 2006.

The current board members are:

Peter Williamson (Chair); Alan Baker; Yvonne Brown; Duncan Gear; Sally Irvine; Alan Kershaw; Sir Stephen Lander; Andrew Long; Penelope Owston; Sally Ruthen; Edward Solomons; Dr. Jonathan Spencer; John Stoker; Richard Taylor; Stephen Walzer; and Stephen Whittle.

Full details about the board members can be found on the SRA's website.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received about the effectiveness of the Solicitors Regulation Authority. [157851]

Bridget Prentice: I am not aware of any formal representations received by this Department about the effectiveness of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). However, several Members of Parliament have explicitly endorsed the SRA's efficiency and effectiveness in handling specific regulatory issues. In addition, this Department routinely receives general correspondence from Members of Parliament and from the public concerning the SRA.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last met Mr. Antony Townsend, Chief Executive Officer of the Solicitors Regulation Authority. [157852]

Bridget Prentice: The Secretary of State has not met with Antony Townsend in his capacity as Chief Executive of the Solicitors Regulation Authority. Mr. Townsend has, however, met with Ministers on several occasions since his appointment. I hosted the most recent of these meetings on 10 July 2007.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received from ethnic monitoring firms about their treatment by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. [157853]

Bridget Prentice: I am not aware of any representations received by this Department from ethnic minority firms about their treatment by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). However, as a result of internal concerns about a statistical disparity showing that black and minority ethnic solicitors were over-represented in regulatory decisions, the SRA commissioned an external analysis of this issue, resulting in the publication in July 2006 of the report "The impact of regulatory decisions of the Investigations and Enforcement Unit on black and minority ethnic solicitors". The SRA is now following a programme of action aimed at discharging its responsibility for protecting the public interest fairly and in a manner that is non-discriminatory.

Youth Offending Teams: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what future funding is planned for youth offending teams; and what change this represents compared with current levels. [157830]

Mr. Hanson: Youth offending teams are local authority multi agency teams made up of five statutory partners: police, probation, social services, education and health. YOTs are funded by these five statutory partners, the local authority chief executive and by the Youth Justice Board.

The existing funding arrangements by probation services will continue for 2008-09 and the options for funding beyond this are currently being explored in light of the new arrangements contained in the Offender Management Act. Probation services will remain a statutory partner in YOTs.

The Youth Justice Board provide a variety of grants to YOTs and decisions on future levels of payment have yet to be made.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committee on London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons the Cabinet Committee on London (MISC 26) has been abolished. [158072]

The Prime Minister: The Government remains fully committed to delivering high quality public services throughout London. On 23 July I announced a new Cabinet Committee structure (*Official Report*, column 46WS), copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. There are now a smaller number of broader ranging, more cross-cutting Committees. Under the new structure, the delivery of public services in London will be considered by the Cabinet Committee with responsibility for the relevant policy area.

Committee on Standards in Public Life

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) for what reasons and on what date it was decided to not invite Sir Alistair Graham to serve a second term as Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. [157801]

(2) what the recruitment process is for appointing a new permanent Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life; and on what date he expects to make such an appointment. [157802]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2167W.

Departmental Responsibilities: Offshore Industry

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Prime Minister what consideration he gave when he last re-organised Government departments and their responsibilities to giving the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responsibility for offshore oil, gas and energy consents; and if he will make a statement. [157243]

The Prime Minister: I announced changes to the Machinery of Government in a Written Ministerial Statement on 28 June 2007 (*Official Report*, columns 36-40WS). Departmental responsibilities are kept under constant review.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on taxis in the last 12 months. [153161]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 531W.

Foreign Relations: Video Recordings

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Prime Minister what record is kept of video conferences between him and the President of the United States; and if he will make a statement. [157066]

The Prime Minister: Records are kept in accordance with 'Private Office Records Guidance' prepared by the Cabinet Office and the National Archives. Copies of this guidance are available on the National Archives website.

Prime Ministerial Visits

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Prime Minister which NHS hospitals he has visited since 27th June. [158459]

Anne Main: To ask the Prime Minister when he last visited a tax credit office in his official capacity. [158569]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year. My visits cover a range of matters including health, education, criminal justice and the economy, details of which can be found on the No. 10 website.

Martin Howard: Honours

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister who nominated Martin Howard for an honour. [157800]

The Prime Minister: In accordance with the practice of successive governments, the identities of those making nominations for honours, and the detailed handling of nominations, are kept confidential.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister if he will expedite the reply to the letter to him dated 2nd August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. C. Fairhurst, which he forwarded for reply to the Department for Communities and Local Government. [157302]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Department Accountacy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156616]

Paul Goggins: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury issue accounts directions to departments, pension schemes and agencies, and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Northern Ireland Office has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

2005-06

Police Service of Northern Ireland

2006-07

Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Northern Ireland Election Office (Returning Officers Expenses)

Office of the Oversight Commissioner

Armed Conflict

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Office has provided any support to other national Governments dealing with community conflict. [155828]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 451-52W.

From time to time embassies and high commissions engage with the NIO to learn more about the Northern Ireland peace process.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of buying new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices for new Ministers in his Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156727]

Paul Goggins: The following table illustrates the cost of buying new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices for new Ministers by the Northern Ireland Office.

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)	Number of personal digital assistant devices (blackberries) purchased	Cost (£)
1997-98	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998-99	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999-2000	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000-01	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001-02	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002-03	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003-04	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	2	94	0	0
2005-06	0	0	0	0	3	750
2006-07	0	0	0	0	0	0

Economic Policy

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what policies his Office has adopted to assist the United Kingdom's fulfilment of the Lisbon Agenda criteria. [155830]

Paul Goggins: Policies adopted in Northern Ireland to assist fulfilment of the Lisbon Strategy for jobs and growth is a matter for the devolved Administration in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Executive contributed to the update published by HM Treasury in September 2007 on progress in implementing the Lisbon Strategy for jobs and growth. This is available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/international_issues/european_economic_reform/int_lisbonstrategy_jobs.cfm.

Northern Ireland Office: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155882]

Paul Goggins: The following table illustrates the total projected spend on advertising and promotional campaigns by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and executive NDPBs. We are unable to provide the breakdown requested by the hon. Member.

Advertising/promotional campaign	Projected expenditure (£) 2007-08	2008-09
Community Safety Campaign	206,600	—
Fireworks Public Safety Awareness and Enforcement Campaign	185,000	185,000
Organised Crime Branch: Fake Goods Christmas Campaign, Extortion Campaign	17,765	—
Announcement of new legislation governing Security Licensing Industry	5,000	—
Public appeal for information to help locate victims remains.	5,000	—

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bonus payments were made to Child Support Agency staff in each year since 1997, broken down by value of payments. [143579]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the earlier response to his parliamentary question on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1192W.

Child Support Agency: Vertex

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on performance in relation to Child Support Agency work carried out by Vertex at its offices in Bolton. [146170]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 16 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make a statement on performance in relation to Child Support Agency work carried out by Vertex at its offices in Bolton. [146170]

Vertex Data Science Ltd manages the CSA Bolton site, a new unit we have established to deal with our clerical cases. These are cases, which for technical reasons it is not possible for our new computer system to progress. By moving all the clerical work undertaken by the Agency to one site we have released people to focus on other improvement work including reducing the number of uncleared applications to the lowest levels since 1999 and strengthening enforcement.

While the arrangement has been generally beneficial, we have experienced some operational issues including expressions of concern from some clients, MPs and the Independent Case Examiner about how the Bolton site is currently managing complaints. The Agency has now taken steps to ensure that our service to clients improves in the future. All complaints with MP or Independent Case Examiner involvement as well as those cases that require a review will be transferred to specialist caseworkers within the Agency over the coming months.

As you will know, the Agency has cleared significant numbers of applications in the last year, with uncleared cases falling by 31% across both schemes. As a result the increase in volumes of

cases requiring clerical processing to be dealt with in Bolton has been higher than initially forecast and transferring complaints work to other sites within the Agency will allow CSA Bolton to focus on collecting maintenance in those cases.

Our Minister, Lord McKenzie has also recently written to all MPs concerning the changes the Agency has made to the complaints resolution process, including transferring these complaints from the Bolton office.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the performance of the Bolton office of the Child Support Agency; and if he will make a statement. [149340]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 16 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what representations he has received on the performance of the Bolton office of the Child Support Agency; and if he will make a statement. [149340]

Vertex Data Science Ltd manages the CSA Bolton site, a new unit we have established to deal with our clerical cases. These are cases, which for technical reasons it is not possible for our new computer system to progress. By moving all the clerical work undertaken by the Agency to one site we have released people to focus on other improvement work including reducing the number of uncleared applications to the lowest levels since 1999 and strengthening enforcement.

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Our Minister, Lord McKenzie has also recently written to all MPs concerning the changes the Agency has made to the complaints resolution process, including transferring these complaints from the Bolton office.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account directions were issued by his Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156618]

Mrs. McGuire: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury issue accounts directions to departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Department for Work and Pensions has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

2005-06

The Pension Protection Fund

The Pensions Regulator

2006-07

None

Directions were also issued to the following sponsored bodies prior to the above dates and these were still extant during the period in question:

2004-05

Health and Safety Executive

Health and Safety Commission

Pensions Compensation Board

2001-02

Disability Rights Commission

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority

Departments: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are employed by his Department, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [157169]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions employed a total of 117,854 staff (equating to 106,040 full-time equivalents) as at the end of August 2007. It is not possible to break down the number of staff by parliamentary constituency since the Department's staffing is not recorded on this basis. To obtain information on this basis would be at disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new Disability Living Allowance claims were processed between April 2006 and January 2007; how many were *(a)* rejected, *(b)* rejected or reduced following medical evidence and *(c)* appealed, broken down by the result of the appeal. [155900]

Mrs. McGuire: Between April 2006 and January 2007, there were 350,400 decisions made on Disability Living Allowance (DLA) new claims. 187,480 new claims were refused and of these 117,854 were rejected or refused following medical evidence. The available information about the number of claims that were appealed is in the following table.

DLA appeals broken down by type of award: April 2006 to January 2007

	Number
Withdrawn after submission	5,476
Award reduced	217

DLA appeals broken down by type of award: April 2006 to January 2007

	Number
Award reduced—care to low rate	27
Award reduced—Mobility to low rate	17
Award reduced—care and mobility to low rate	5
Award maintained	25,711
Award varied	528
Award increased	6,400
Lapsed	7,198
Allowed	17,277
Defective	202
Superseded	68
Disallowed	893
Misconceived	132

Source:
Disability and Carers' Service report: RAA/RDA 60205-60209

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of disability living allowance in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [156715]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following tables.

Disability living allowance—cases in payment

	May each year					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency	4,200	4,500	4,300	4,400	4,800	5,010
South Tyneside Council	8,000	8,400	8,300	8,500	9,200	9,230
North East Government Office Region	130,800	138,100	141,000	143,900	149,800	151,780
Great Britain	1,941,900	2,054,600	2,121,900	2,193,100	2,306,400	2,424,350

	May each year				February
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency	5,100	5,180	5,270	5,360	5,470
South Tyneside Council	9,440	9,580	9,730	9,900	10,160
North East Government Office Region	155,630	157,130	158,760	159,910	163,170
Great Britain	2,547,090	2,644,280	2,729,720	2,799,160	2,860,790

Notes:
1. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. Figures for May 2002—February 2007 are taken from the DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
3. Figures for May 2002—February 2007 are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
4. Figures for May 1997—May 2001 are taken from the Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.
5. Figures for May 1997—May 2001 are rated in line with WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many terminally ill people are receiving disability living allowance. [156724]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* At February 2007, around 50,200 terminally ill people were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of adults of working age were claiming incapacity benefits in *(a)* each Welsh unitary authority, *(b)* each English region, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2005 and (iv) at the latest date for which figures are available. [155634]

Mrs. McGuire: Information about Northern Ireland is a matter for my hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The available information is in the following tables.

Percentage of working age population claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance by Welsh local authority

	February each year			
Local authority	1997	2001	2005	2007
Isle of Anglesey	10.5	11.1	10.4	9.7
Blaenau Gwent	21.3	19.6	19.0	17.4
Bridgend	14.9	15.0	13.8	13.2
Caerphilly	17.8	17.1	16.1	15.0
Cardiff	9.3	9.7	8.8	8.6
Carmarthenshire	14.9	15.2	13.7	12.8
Ceredigion	8.2	9.3	8.5	8.1
Conwy	9.7	11.0	10.5	10.1
Denbighshire	11.9	11.6	11.0	10.5
Flintshire	8.3	8.7	8.0	7.6
Gwynedd	8.8	9.4	8.7	8.4
Merthyr Tydfil	24.7	22.2	20.1	17.9
Monmouthshire	6.9	7.6	7.3	7.0
Neath Port Talbot	18.8	18.9	17.2	15.7
Newport	10.5	11.2	10.4	9.9

Percentage of working age population claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance by Welsh local authority

	February each year			
Local authority	*1997*	*2001*	*2005*	*2007*
Pembrokeshire	11.1	11.4	10.6	10.0
Powys	8.3	8.3	7.8	7.5
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	16.6	18.4	16.6	15.3
Swansea	14.4	13.7	12.5	11.6
The Vale of Glamorgan	8.7	8.8	8.4	8.0
Torfaen	14.6	13.9	12.7	12.0
Wrexham	11.6	10.8	10.0	9.6

Definitions and conventions:
Percentages are shown to 1 decimal place.
Notes:
1. 5 per cent. figures for 1997 have been uprated in line with 100 per cent. totals.
2. Claimants include credits only cases.
3. Figures refer to working age claimants of IB/SDA.
4. Working age populations (females aged 16 to 59, males aged 16 to 64) for each local authority at the relevant year have been used to calculate percentages.
Sources:
1. Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample, 1997.
2. DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data 2001, 2005 and 2007.
3. Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2006.

Percentage of working age population claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance by region

	February each year			
Government office region	*1997*	*2001*	*2005*	*2007*
North East	11.6	12.1	11.2	10.4
North West	11.0	10.9	10.2	9.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	7.9	8.2	8.0	7.4
East Midlands	6.4	7.1	6.9	6.6
West Midlands	7.2	7.7	7.6	7.3
East of England	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.1
London	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.2
South East	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.7
South West	5.6	6.2	6.3	6.3
Wales	12.7	12.8	11.8	11.1
Scotland	10.4	10.6	10.1	9.5

Definitions and conventions:
Percentages are shown to 1 decimal place.
Notes:
1. 5 per cent. figures for 1997 have been uprated in line with 100 per cent. totals.
2. Claimants include credits only cases.
3. Figures refer to working age claimants of IB/SDA.
4. Working age populations (females aged 16 to 59, males aged 16 to 64) for each region at the relevant year have been used to calculate percentages.
Sources:
1. Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample, 1997.
2. DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data 2001, 2005 and 2007.
3. Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to simplify the applications process for incapacity benefits; and if he will make a statement; [155956]

(2) what plans he has to reduce the length of time an applicant for incapacity benefits has to wait until they receive their benefits; and if he will make a statement. [155957]

Mrs. McGuire: The average time for clearing incapacity benefit claims nationally is 13.9 days against a Jobcentre Plus target of 18 days from receipt of a claim. The performance of Jobcentre Plus offices against this target is kept under review. Jobcentre Plus continues to look for improvements in the processing of claims and recent examples include the introduction of a rapid reclaim process for people who return to incapacity benefit and the implementation of a single 0800 number for customers to use when making a claim.

The Government's Welfare Reform Act 2007 makes provision for a new benefit, the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), to replace the current incapacity benefits system for new and repeat claimants from autumn 2008. ESA aims to provide a modernised and simpler benefit which is designed to help people with health conditions and disabilities to focus on their aspirations to return to work and to provide support where an immediate return to work is not possible.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of applications for incapacity benefits were successful in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [155959]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit claims volumes

			Thousand
	Awarded	*Refused*	*Percentage of decisions that result in an award*
2002-03	222	329	40.3
2003-04	271	414	39.6
2004-05	260	347	42.9
2005-06	241	305	44.1
2006-07	230	330	41.1

Notes:
1. Results have been provided by the Information Directorate (BIC).
2. Volume figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. The volume figures represent the number of new claims awarded and refused in each financial year.
4. The total awarded and refused does not constitute the figure for claims received.
5. It is not possible to deduce proportions of the total claims received that are successful or unsuccessful as claims received in a given year may not necessarily get a decision in that same year.
6. The percentage awarded figures represent the proportion of awarded decisions of all decisions i.e. of the total of awarded and refused combined. These percentages represent the best view of the award success rate, but only reflect decisions that are recorded in the counts that can be extracted from MISP.
7. There is limited information available about how the counts are derived, and so there may be some claims excluded from these results, and some claims included twice e.g. if a claim is initially refused, goes to appeal and is then awarded, it could be counted in both the awarded and refused volumes.
Source:
DWP MISP System

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the reasons for regional variations in incapacity payments and *(b)* the impact of regional variation on claimants, with particular reference to variations between the Midlands and the North. [156485]

Mrs. McGuire: No assessment has been made of the reasons for regional variations in levels of incapacity payments.

UK Commission for Employment and Skills

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many places on the UK Commission for Employment and Skills will be guaranteed for commissioners from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively. [157313]

Caroline Flint: Commissioner recruitment is currently under way, working with officials across the four countries. It has been agreed that a place on the Commission will be guaranteed for a commissioner from each of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

TRANSPORT

Airports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time was for a person arriving at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted to clear airport procedures in (i) the last year for which figures are available and (ii) each of the previous five years. [157310]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held by this Department.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the amount of emissions from each type of aircraft using UK airports; what plans she has (i) to incentivise and (ii) to penalise the worst offending operating companies; and if she will make a statement. [157262]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Individual aircraft are internationally certified according to their noise level, emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and emissions of particulates during landing and take-off. The Department uses the noise data of individual aircraft in models that build up a map of the total noise at designated airports. These are then published.

The project for the sustainable development of Heathrow is collating the total emissions inventory for different scenarios. The basic aircraft emissions data are derived from the publicly available certification data for each type of aircraft. We will be consulting on this shortly.

The Civil Aviation Act 2006 provides powers for all airports to introduce charges that reflect the noise and NOx generated by each aircraft type. In addition to these charges penalties can be imposed for exceedences of noise levels specified in the noise control schemes.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of constructing the high speed rail link from Folkestone to St. Pancras. [157582]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The final construction cost has not been established as some contracts have still to be completed. However, the anticipated final outturn cost is currently £5.8 billion.

Crossrail Line: Contracts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when a decision will be taken on letting a construction contract for Crossrail. [158497]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Assuming that the Crossrail Bill gains Royal Assent in summer 2008, Cross-London Rail Links Ltd. expects to commence the procurement process in the first quarter of 2009 and let construction contracts in the first quarter of 2010.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps need to be completed before a construction contract can be let for work on Crossrail. [158498]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Crossrail Bill needs to be given Royal Assent; the Department for Transport and Transport for London need to conclude a suite of agreements on project funding and governance arrangements; the relevant property needs to be acquired; and Cross-London Rail Links Ltd needs to complete project design and contract development work, and issue invitations to tender and assess the resulting bids.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what circumstances the partners in the Crossrail project would not proceed with a construction contract. [158491]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend is confident that the construction of Crossrail will proceed as planned and can foresee no likely obstacles to that. She will of course keep progress under review to ensure that the project offers best value for money in its construction and implementation.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the design work on Crossrail will be complete. [158496]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Design is a continuous process. Cross-London Rail Links Ltd. expects to complete design work for the purpose of tendering construction contracts by the first quarter of 2009.

Cycleways: Finance

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding the Government has provided to local authorities in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wirral South for the establishment or maintenance of cycle tracks in the last five years. [158015]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Government funding for integrated transport improvements, including the establishment of cycle tracks, is provided in the annual local transport capital settlements, published on the Department for Transport website at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/. It is for local authorities to decide exactly how to spend this funding in accordance with their local policies and priorities.

Government funding for routine highways maintenance, including the maintenance of cycle tracks, is included in the formula grant settlement administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Details of this are published at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0607/grant.htm

In addition the Government are providing specific funding for national standard cycle training, including £250,000 in 2007-08 for the Merseyside local authorities.

Cycling: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what resources have been allocated under the Comprehensive Spending Review for the Cycle City scheme. [157980]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding for cycling will be finalised in the context of the Department's Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 settlement announced on 9 October. We will publish a breakdown of the Department's spending plans in the Department's Annual Report.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by her Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157922]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A variety of methods is used across the Department for Transport and Executive agency websites to gather such metrics for 'hits'. To determine which sites are the most and least popular based on 'hits' requires consideration of both unique visitor and actual visit figures to all sites. These data are not available for all sites and as such it is not possible to provide the information requested.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff are seconded to her Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157920]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Appointments on inward secondment to the central Department for Transport and its Agencies are outlined in the following table:

Organisation	*Number of secondees*	*Duration of secondment*
First Group Plc	1	3 years
French Transport Ministry	1	3 years
RNIB	1	2 years
QinetiQ	1	2 years
Energy Saving Trust	1	4 months
Deloitte	1	1 year
Freshfields	1	6 months
PricewaterhouseCoopers	1	1 year
Swedish Transport Ministry	1	1 month
Civil Aviation Authority	2	3 years
KPMG	1	3 to 6 months
Kent Fire Brigade	1	4 years
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	1	3 years
Dutch Department for Roads and Waterways	1	1 year

Driving Tests: Foreigners

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assistance the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency makes available for people taking a driving test whose first language is not English. [158305]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency offers assistance for non-English speaking candidates taking the theory and practical test.

The theory test is offered in 20 languages in addition to English. The non-English learner uses headphones to listen to an interpretation of the on-screen instructions.

On the practical element of the driving test, interpreters are allowed to accompany learners. Driving examiners are trained to identify any inappropriate assistance given by interpreters to a candidate.

The interpreter is only allowed to repeat the examiner's instructions e.g. "take the next road on the right". Therefore, the translation is short and it would be obvious if more was being said as the instructions are very repetitive. The candidate is not allowed to speak directly to the interpreter during the test.

Should an examiner suspect that the interpreter is interfering with the conduct of the test, he will ask the interpreter to only repeat what he has said. If the examiner feels that the interpreter has ignored the request he will terminate the test. This system works well and we have no evidence to suggest that it is being abused.

Lorries: Publications

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Truckstop Guide provided by the Highways Agency; [157986]

(2) when her Department last assessed the *(a)* availability and *(b)* range of services provided at truckstops in England. [157987]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Truckstop Guide was a trial publication produced by the Highways Agency during 2006. Research indicates that the guide has been effective in raising awareness of designated freight parking facilities and promoting driver safety and

journey planning information to both UK and continental drivers. Options for its future development are currently being considered.

Since 1992, it has been Government policy that the responsibility for identifying and acquiring appropriate motorway and trunk road service area sites lies with the private sector. The most recent assessment of truckstop availability and services was conducted early in 2007 as part of an update to the information originally gathered to inform the Truckstop Guide.

M40: Accidents

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why both carriageways of the M40 motorway were closed on 12 and 13 August when the incident being investigated by police occurred only on the southbound carriageway; and if she will make a statement. [158157]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The M40 was closed on 12 and 13 August as a result of a major investigation by Warwickshire police into a fatal shooting that occurred on the southbound carriageway, between Junctions 12 and 13. The northbound carriageway was closed at the request of the police as their investigations proceeded. It is entirely for the police to decide the extent of closures required during such investigations.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Finance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding increases in real terms are proposed for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for each of the next five years. [158160]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The funding for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for the next three years will be finalised in the context of the Department for Transport's Comprehensive Spending Review 07 settlement announced on 9 October; no decisions on internal allocations have been made yet. We will publish a breakdown of the Department's spending plans in the Department's annual report.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the industrial action taking place affecting the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; what contingency arrangements are in place should the dispute escalate; and what steps she is taking to settle the dispute. [158159]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Industrial action short of a strike has been taking place within the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) since the end of May this year. This action while regrettable, has not affected emergency response and search and rescue work.

The MCA are meeting regularly with union representatives with a view to bringing the dispute to a conclusion as soon as possible. I have also met the unions and listened to their concerns on this issue.

The MCA has detailed contingency plans in place to cover emergency situations should the dispute escalate.

Motorcycles

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcyclists there were in the UK in each year from 1997. [158670]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data regarding the number of motorcyclists in the United Kingdom are not available.

However, the numbers of licensed motorcycles, including scooters and mopeds, registered to keepers residing in Great Britain are available within table 1.1 of "Vehicle Licensing Statistics 2006". A copy of the report, published on 28 June 2007, was placed in the House of Commons Library and it is also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/licensing/vehiclelicensingstatistics2006

Motorways: Road Traffic

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will issue advice to chief police officers advising them of the necessity of keeping motorways open to vehicular traffic whenever possible. [158156]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Highways Agency has signed a Strategic Agreement on Traffic Incident Management with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and formed a partnership group. This group will develop a detailed guidance framework on managing incidents on the Strategic Road Network with the aim of improving the time taken to investigate accidents and open lanes.

The police and the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service work together to open motorway lanes as soon as possible after an incident and are often able to do so quickly. On those occasions where this are not possible, the situation is reviewed regularly and alternative options for managing and relieving congested traffic are considered.

Railways: Brent

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times trains were *(a)* delayed, *(b)* delayed by more than one hour and *(c)* cancelled through mainline stations in Brent in 2006. [157632]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not receive the information about delays to individual trains on specific days. Low-level data of this type are not required by the Department in order to fulfil its responsibilities.

The day-to-day operation of train services, and associated record keeping, is the responsibility of train operators. Network Rail as the operator of the rail network also holds information on train operations.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation: Animal Products

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will meet representatives from the oleochemical and soap industries to discuss the impact of the proposed Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation on their use of tallow as a raw material. [158715]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I would be happy to do so on her behalf.

Road Signs and Markings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department has issued to

local authorities on highway signage on local authority-controlled roads. [158105]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport prescribes those signs that may be erected on any road by means of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions, the latest version of which was published in 2002.

The Department has also published guidance on the correct use of traffic signs, including road markings, in the various chapters of the Traffic Signs Manual and in Local Transport Note 1/94 "The Design and Use of Directional Informatory Signs".

The "Manual for Streets" published by the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2007 gives further advice on the appropriate and sensitive use of traffic signs for residential streets.

Road Traffic Offences: Foreigners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to introduce the commencement order for section 9 and Schedule 2 of the Road Safety Act 2006 which makes penalty point endorsement available to non-GB counterpart holders, including those in Northern Ireland. [157973]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government plan to commence section 9 and schedule 2 of the Road Safety Act 2006, together with related sections, as soon in 2008 as is practicable.

Roads: Horses

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she is planning to place restrictions on horse riders when using roads; and if she will make a statement. [158722]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not have any plans to place a general restriction on horse riders on roads. This is a matter for local traffic authorities who are best-placed to consider what is appropriate in particular circumstances within the powers available to them.

Roads: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Minister for the South East has to address the noise emanating from the Lewes by-pass; and if she will make a statement. [157792]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Whenever a road needs to be resurfaced, for safety and maintenance reasons, quieter surfacing is used as a matter of course. In 2004, a 1 km stretch of the A27 Lewes bypass was repaired using low noise material.

In financial year 2006-07, the Highways Agency completed a further technical survey for this location, which identified that only a short section of the bypass, lane 1 of both the eastbound approach and westbound exit from Southerham roundabout, requires resurfacing. The works are planned to be carried out in 2008-09 financial year, subject to funding.

The Agency currently has no plans to erect noise barriers at this location as the site does not meet the necessary criteria.

Underground Railways: Security

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions each London Underground station has been closed because of security alerts in each of the last 10 years. [156479]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by London Underground who can be contacted at the following address:

Lucy Webster
Head of Stakeholder Communications
London Underground
55 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BD
lucy.webster@tube.tfl.gov.uk

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what functions of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office have been transferred to the Cabinet Office following the recent machinery of government changes. [158189]

Edward Miliband: None of the statutory functions that were vested in the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State have been transferred to the Cabinet Office. Chairmanship of Cabinet Committees and other duties were reallocated as part of the Prime Minister's appointments of his Government.

Government Departments: Equality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to ensure that all Government departments fully comply with their equality duties. [157758]

Edward Miliband: Legislation under which the equality duties have been put in place makes each individual government department responsible for its own compliance with the equality duties. It is the responsibility of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) (and before 1 October 2007 the relevant equality commission—the Commission for Racial Equality, Equal Opportunities Commission or the Disability Rights Commission) to monitor compliance.

All Government Departments have worked with the Commissions on compliance since the introduction of the equality duties, and before then regarding other equality legislation. They will continue this work with the new CEHR.

Cross-department support has been provided to departments on the equality duties. This includes information events for departmental equality teams on the general equality duties and on specific aspects, such as equality impact assessments. Cabinet Office and the Department for Work and Pensions (the sponsoring body for the CEHR) will continue supporting departments in such steps to assist with them with compliance.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to her answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report,* column 1291W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, how much the consultants employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority and her Department cost in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [150116]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* In my previous answer to the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid-Kent on 9 July 2007, *Official Report,* column 1291W, I stated that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had not employed consultancy firms to work on the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in the current financial year (2007-08) and that two consultancy firms were employed in 2006-07.

However, it has since come to light that during 2006-07 a total of six consultancy firms were employed by DCMS on Olympic-related business. One of these firms continued to work on Olympic-related business in 2007-08 and a further four consultancy contracts had also, as of 9 July, been entered into during 2007-08.

The total costs incurred for consultants employed in 2006-07 was £721,266.36 (including VAT) and for those commissioned as of 9 July 2007 was £202,314.33 (including VAT).

Since my answer of 9 July, the Department has entered into five further Olympic-related consultancy contracts. Their costs are not included in the aforementioned figure.

The cost of consultancy firms employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority in 2006-07 was £50,494,000 and in 2007-08 (as of 9 July) was £10,753,000. A significant percentage of these costs is attributed to five major contracts in 2006-07 (Atkins, EDAW Limited, Ernst and Young LLP, Ove Arup and Partners Limited, and Rockpools) and three major contracts in 2007-08 (Atkins, EDAW Limited, and Ove Arup and Partners Limited).

These costs reflect the process of establishing the ODA, and building up organisational capacity, while ensuring key delivery milestones are achieved.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accommodation Addresses: Crime

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation she has made of the potential abuse of accommodation address agencies by perpetrators of *(a)* terrorism, *(b)* serious organised crime, *(c)* fraudulent passport applications, *(d)* identity fraud and *(e)* other criminal activities. [156595]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Home Office has made no such evaluation. I understand that colleagues at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are discussing with a range of interested parties whether Government intervention is appropriate.

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to tackle underage sales and irresponsible promotion of alcohol. [158418]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* We have carried out two tackling underage sales of alcohol campaigns (the most recent of which included a 10 week operational phase which concluded on 13 July) through which police and trading standards officers have targeted 2,683 potential problem premises that break the law by selling alcohol to under-18s. Prior to this, we carried out four national alcohol misuse enforcement campaigns (AMECs) between 2004 and 2006.

In 2004, the overall test purchase failure rate was 50 per cent. In 2006, it had dropped to 20 per cent. In this latest and more targeted campaign it now stands at 15 per cent overall.

Nearly 9,000 test purchase operations were carried out on 2,683 premises in the recent national tackling underage sales enforcement campaign. Children were only able to obtain alcohol in 14.7 per cent of cases. Only 22 actual premises (0.8 per cent of premises targeted) sold alcohol to children on three separate occasions. These figures again signal further improvements in the reduction of the test purchase failures since the national enforcement campaigns began three years ago, Through 'Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy', the Government are committed to carrying out an independent review of the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm, and following public consultation, will consider the need for regulatory change in the future, if necessary. This review is being led by the Department of Health and has gone out to tender. We anticipate publishing the review's findings in the summer of 2008. In addition, the Government are also committed to carrying out a review and consultation on the effectiveness of the alcohol industry's Social Responsibility Standards document in contributing to a reduction in alcohol harm, and following public consultation, will consider the need for regulatory change in the future, if necessary. We anticipate launching the public consultation in November 2008.

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Places

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether *(a)* consent and *(b)* permission of (i) the police, (ii) central Government and (iii) regional government offices is needed for a local authority to introduce a public drinking ban in an area in their locality; [158132]

(2) what guidance has been given to local authorities on introducing public drinking bans. [158133]

Mr. Coaker: The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 gave local authorities the power to designate public areas through the introduction of a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) restricting antisocial public drinking in areas where alcohol related disorder or nuisance has been experienced.

DPPOs are sometimes mistakenly referred to as 'public drinking bans'.

Once in place a DPPO provides the police with the power to enforce the restriction, where necessary because of the antisocial alcohol misuse, by confiscating both opened and sealed containers. It is an offence to drink alcohol in a designated public place after being required by a police officer not to do so.

The Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2001 require a local authority to consult with the police, parish or community council and licensees of any premises which may be affected before making the order. The local authority must also take reasonable steps to consult the owners or occupiers of any land within the proposed DPPO area. The local authority is required to consider the representations that it receives after consultation with the bodies listed above.

The local authority must also publish the details of the proposed DPPO in a newspaper and invite representations as to whether or not an order should be made.

Local authorities have been provided with the Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Place Regulations 2001 and 2007; Explanatory Memorandum to the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007 and a Home Office Circular (13/2007) to chief executives of local authorities and chief constables in England and Wales on the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007.

This information along with links to Frequently Asked Questions and examples of best practice can be found on the following website:

www.crimereduction.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders01.htm

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* proposed experiments on Felix the macaque monkey by compliance of the Oxford university with the project licence granted in respect of the primate; if she will suspend this licence pending investigation of the matter; and if she will make a statement. [157219]

Meg Hillier: The university has advised that Felix was humanely killed in early June 2007 on completion of the work in which he was involved and in accordance with the requirements of the relevant project licence. I am satisfied that the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 have been fully met, and I do not consider there is a need to vary or suspend the licence.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what method of record keeping she requires establishments with a certificate of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to use; and what guidelines her Department has issued on consistency of such record keeping. [158151]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Record keeping requirements for designated establishments are set out in paragraphs 4.27 to 4.33 and Appendices B and C of the published Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321). A number of formats have evolved that satisfy these requirements and meet local needs. The records must be made available to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate on request. Failure to maintain records in a format that is acceptable to the Secretary of State is in breach of the terms and conditions of authorities issued under the 1986 Act.

Drugs: Serious and Organised Crime Agency

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many intelligence referrals on drug trafficking were *(a)* investigated and *(b)* brought to court (i) in each of the three years before the establishment of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and (ii) by SOCA since its establishment. [156180]

Mr. Coaker: SOCA and its predecessors receive intelligence from numerous sources and in a variety of forms. This is assessed, analysed and acted upon in different ways depending on the content. It is not therefore possible to quantify "intelligence referrals" as a unit of measurement.

The report, Drug Offenders in England and Wales (23/05), shows that in 2004 (the latest year for which data exist) 4,500 individuals were dealt with for the unlawful supply of all drugs. Of these, 3,350 were for Class A drugs. These include both cases dealt with by SOCA's predecessor organisations and the police forces of England and Wales.

In its first year (2006-07) SOCA casework in the UK led to the arrest of 601 individuals for drug-related offences. In the SOCA cases that reached the courts in 2006-07, convictions were secured against 211 individuals for drug-related offences. Additionally, at least 490 individuals were arrested in 2006-07 for Class A drugs-related offences as a result of SOCA's international casework. These figures relate only to SOCA casework. They do not include arrests and convictions in 2006-07 that have resulted from police or HMRC casework.

Hizb-ut-Tahrir

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the merits of proscribing Hizb-ut-Tahrir. [156381]

Mr. McNulty: The case for the proscription of Hizb-ut-Tahrir is kept under close review.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 3 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Butt. [156910]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 8 October 2007.

Northamptonshire Police: Manpower

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the manpower levels are of the Northamptonshire Police Force; and what she estimates they will be after the conclusion of the ongoing review of the force. [157614]

Mr. McNulty: At 31 March 1997 Northamptonshire Police had 1,301 police officers, 1,009 police staff and 129 PCSOs. Staffing levels are an operational matter for local agreement between the chief constable and the police authority.

Offensive Weapons: Young People

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many minors were arrested in possession of *(a)* a gun and *(b)* a knife in each of the last three years. [156292]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform provides data only on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary etc. More detailed data about specific offences or circumstances behind arrests do not form part of this collection.

Police: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to meet representatives of Cambridgeshire Police Authority to discuss funding of Cambridgeshire police in the next six months; and if she will make a statement. [156760]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary wrote to the chairman of Cambridgeshire Police Authority on 8 October indicating that she would be happy to visit Cambridgeshire Constabulary when an opportunity arises.

Police: Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from *(a)* Cambridgeshire Constabulary, *(b)* Cambridgeshire police authority, *(c)* Lincolnshire Constabulary, *(d)* Lincolnshire police authority and *(e)* right hon. Members on the effects of immigration into the region on police budgets and manpower; and if she will make a statement. [156396]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Home Office received a written representation from the Chief Officer of Cambridgeshire Constabulary commissioned by the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and police authority on the effects of migration in their force area. The authority has also written separately on this issue.

No representations have been received from Lincolnshire.

The hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) tabled a question about the effects of immigration on 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 975W, but no other representations have been received from hon. Members.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it Government policy to ensure that an increased proportion of police officers is deployed on road traffic enforcement duties. [158146]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The allocation and deployment of resources are operational matters for individual chief officers of police. It is right that day to day decisions should be taken at the local level in the light of changing situations and circumstances and public concerns at different times and in different places.

We have made clear on numerous occasions our view of the importance of roads policing, including by references in National Policing Plans and the National Community Safety Plan. In January 2005, the Home Office, Department for Transport and ACPO issued a jointly agreed national Roads Policing Strategy to set roads policing in the context of over-all police work, establish continuing priorities and identify underpinning principles for operational practice and the development of policy. Ministers wrote earlier this year to all chief officers stressing the importance of roads policing and of treating offences on the roads as seriously as other offences.

We do not believe it helpful to focus exclusively on numbers. More effective roads policing is in general delivered chiefly by better use of intelligence, more targeting and more efficient use of resources. The Government have, moreover, increased the number of police over-all by more than 14, 000. This means more officers available for all aspects of police work, including roads policing. All police officers can enforce road traffic legislation as appropriate, whether or not they are dedicated to roads policing.

Separation: Indian Subcontinent

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of women from the Indian sub-continent left destitute and on the street after failed marriages; and what steps she is taking to afford those women shelter and support. [157943]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Home Office does not routinely collate this information and people are expected to return home if they have a spouse visa and their marriage fails during the probationary period as the reason for entry no longer exists. However, if the marriage fails due to domestic violence, an individual can apply for indefinite leave to remain under the Immigration Rules as a victim of such abuse. Steps have been taken to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of application processing and evidence-gathering in these cases.

We are aware that there are a small number of women who are victims of domestic violence during the probationary period following marriage and can find themselves homeless and unable to access refuge or other emergency accommodation while the application for indefinite leave to remain is being processed.

The Government have asked local authorities to be mindful that some victims of domestic violence could have specific needs for care and attention and/or have dependent children. These factors may make them eligible for assistance under a range of other relevant legislation on a case-by-case basis.

Stop and Search

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 977W, on stop and search, what the *(a)* gender, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* age was of each person stopped under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [156481]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* Data on individuals stopped and searched under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 are not collected by gender or age. However information on the breakdown by ethnicity of persons stopped under Section 44 is provided in the following table.

Statistics are published by the Home Office under Section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, and can be found on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html

Searches of vehicles[1] and occupants, and pedestrians under Section 44 (1) and (2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[2], England and Wales 2001-02 to 2004-05

	Ethnicity					
	White	Black	Asian	Other	Not recorded	Total
2001-02	6,629	529	744	358	260	8,520
2002-03	14,429	1,745	2,989	1,259	1,155	21,577
2003-04	20,600	2,701	3,659	1,324	1,099	29,383
2004-05	23,389	2,511	3,485	1,480	1,197	32,062

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. These figures exclude searches of vehicles only.

[2] The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Vetting

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Record Bureau checks were carried out in each year from 2000 to 2006. [157435]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued 12.2 million Disclosures since its launch in March 2002 to 31 March 2007. The following table illustrates the breakdown, in each financial year:

Financial year	Number of Disclosures issued
2002-03	1,441,704
2003-04	2,287,109
2004-05	2,434,290
2005-06	2,772,929
2006-07	3,283,356
Total	12,219,388

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the government of China on the one child policy; and if he will make a statement. [158369]

Mr. Malik: DFID has not had any recent discussions with the Chinese Government specifically focused on the one child policy. However, DFID works closely with China on reproductive health and rights more generally, especially in the context of our support for HIV and AIDS prevention and for health policy. In these contexts the Chinese Government are regularly made aware of our strong endorsement of the principles of the International Conference on Population and Development. Although the one child policy remains in place, China has made good progress in ensuring reproductive health rights more generally, especially through its implementation of the 2002 Law of Population and Family Planning. The law spells out rights and responsibilities for clients, service providers and family planning officials. Most provinces have now enacted their own regulations in accordance with the national law.

China: United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the United Nations Population Fund in promoting non-coercive approaches to family planning in China since July; and if he will make a statement. [158368]

Mr. Malik: DFID has not made any specific assessment of UNFPA effectiveness in China since July. However, DFID works closely with UNFPA on reproductive health issues in China, especially in relation to HIV and AIDS prevention, the reduction of maternal mortality and the promotion of gender equity in China's health system. UNFPA programmes in China seek to influence China towards the full acceptance of the principles of the International Conference on Population and Development. The focus of UNFPA support is on improving the quality of care and increasing equity of access to reproductive health services.

Debts

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to identify and cancel outstanding international illegitimate debts. [156857]

Mr. Malik: The poorest countries are eligible for 100 per cent. debt cancellation on their bilateral debts under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, as well as 100 per cent. debt cancellation on their debts to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and African Development Bank under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The UK is at the forefront of debt cancellation for poor countries and international poverty reduction. We exceed our commitments under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiatives (MDRI), providing the poorest countries with 100 per cent. cancellation on their bilateral and multilateral debts. The HIPS and MDRI systems have cancelled billions of pounds worth of debt and we continue to believe that they are the most appropriate way to tackle sovereign debt problems. Unpayable debts should not hinder the poorest countries from making progress towards the millennium development goals.

All of our loans are made to internationally recognised governments, are bound by legal contracts and are recognised in international law, we do not therefore consider them to be "illegitimate". We believe that debt relief should be provided on the basis of a country's economic situation rather than their history of poor or corrupt governance. Many countries that have a history of poor governance are now middle-income countries. If we cancelled so-called "illegitimate" debts for such countries, the full cost would have to be met from DFID's aid budget, diverting vital resources away from poorer countries. It is also likely that creditors and investors would take a negative view of the credit worthiness of developing countries in case the loans were later repudiated. This would be damaging for developing countries trying to strengthen their economies and reduce poverty through access to international investment and financing.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs of those preparations were. [156997]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157877]

Mr. Malik: In its May 2007 departmental website review, DFID identified 48 sites that had received departmental funding. Figures are not available for 1 January 2005. Three of these sites have subsequently closed as part of our ongoing efforts to rationalise the number of websites we support. Details of the costs of the four main DFID-funded sites are given in the table. Compiling cost information for other departmental websites could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Website		*Annual cost of running the site (£)*
DFID main site—www.dfid.gov.uk[1]	2007	101,312
	2006	99,708
	2005	94,848
	2004	95,139
	2003	93,703
Developments Magazine—www.developments.org.uk	2007	7,862
	2006	11,846
	2005	10,552
	2004	8,813
	2003	8,460
Research for Development portal—www.research4development.info[2]	2007	43,686
	2006	14,446
AIDSPortal—www.aidsportal.org[3]	2007	27,500

[1] Figures include staffing costs.
[2] Site launched in 2006. Figures exclude development costs.
[3] Previous years' costs were development costs.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157878]

Mr. Malik: In its May 2007 departmental website review, DFID identified 48 sites that had received departmental funding. Compiling visitor information for all these sites could be done only at disproportionate cost. Visitor figures for the main DFID site (www.dfid.gov.uk) for the period 1 January to 31 August 2007 are as follows.

	Number
Page views	3,968,908
Unique users	315,392
User sessions	1,181,043

Foreign Workers: Clothing

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations have been made to his Department regarding the wages paid to the workers of UK high street fashion suppliers based in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [157962]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not received any specific representation on the issue of wages paid to workers of UK high street fashion suppliers based in developing countries in the last six months. However we are engaged on these issues through a number of organisations and initiatives.

These include the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), which DFID helped set up, and funds. We have provided over £2 million to support the ETI, which is an alliance of companies, trades unions and non-governmental organisations committed to improving working conditions in global supply chains. A recent independent assessment of the ETI showed improvements in health and safety, working hours, wages and child labour in the supply chains of companies taking part. DFID also works at the country level, on labour rights and terms and conditions. For instance, in Bangladesh and Lesotho DFID has supported the work of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement Forum, which supports responsible business practices while improving productivity and competitiveness. DFID is also providing up to £20 million in support to the International Labour Organisation to implement decent work country programmes.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with UK high street fashion stores on *(a)* the wages paid to the workers of their suppliers in developing countries and *(b)* ensuring good working conditions and rights for such workers; and if he will make a statement. [157963]

Mr. Thomas: DFID helped set up—and funds—the Ethical Trading Initiative. We have provided over £2 million to support the ETI, which is an alliance of companies, trades unions and non-governmental organisations committed to improving working conditions in global supply chains. A recent independent assessment of the ETI showed improvements in health and safety, working hours, wages and child labour in the supply chains of companies taking part. DFID also works at the country level, on labour rights and terms and conditions.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Audio Equipment: Health Hazards

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 764W, on audio equipment: health hazards, what the evidential basis was for his statement that it is already widely understood that playing personal audio equipment too loud can damage people's hearing. [157167]

Mr. Thomas: Research conducted in 2005 by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) showed that 42 per cent. of people between the ages of 18 to 24 years who played their personal music players for at least an hour every day believed that they had the volume too high. There are no published figures to indicate the percentage of people in the sample who were both aware of the risks and believed they used safe volume levels.

The RNID has been running the 'Don't Lose the Music' campaign to further raise awareness of the dangers of playing personal audio equipment too loud.

Consumers: Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of the Supply of Extended Warranties on Domestic Electrical Goods Order 2005 on consumer protection. [157586]

Mr. Thomas: Responsibility for the Supply of Extended Warranties on Domestic Electrical Goods Order 2005 rests with the Office of Fair Trading. The OFT monitors and enforces this order to ensure as far as possible that it is complied with. In addition, the OFT is commissioning a project to examine the impact that the Supply of Extended Warranties on Domestic Electrical Goods Order 2005 has had on the extended warranties market. The OFT will publish the findings from this project in summer 2008.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely change in *(a)* export sales and *(b)* research and development spending as a result of moving the Defence Export Services Organisation from the Ministry of Defence to UK Trade and Investment. [156169]

Mr. Thomas: It is not Government practice to make estimates of future levels of defence exports. This Machinery of Government change is not expected to affect the amount spent by Government on research and development.

Departmental Responsibilities

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date the Transfer of Function Order detailing the changes in his Department was laid before Parliament for approval. [157723]

Mr. Thomas: It is anticipated that the Transfer of Functions Order will go before the November Privy Council meeting and should therefore come into force on 13 December.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158603]

Mr. Thomas: All correspondence from hon. Members and Peers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in 'Handling Correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies:

Guidance for Departments'. The same principles apply when handling correspondence from members of the public.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members 'Peers' correspondence. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155889]

Mr. Thomas: Currently, projected spending through the Central Office of Information on these advertising media is estimated as follows:

(a) 2007-08 financial year

Nuclear Energy Consultation (July to September 2007) press advertising: £166,634

National Minimum Wage campaign (October 2007 to March 2008), as part of which we currently anticipate spending approximately £400,000 on radio advertising and £200,000 on poster advertising.

(b) No advertising or promotional campaigns have yet been planned through COI for 2008-09.

Figures are exclusive of VAT.

Electricity Generation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the amount of electricity that could be generated through the capture and use of gas produced from landfill; and what proportion of the UK's total electricity supply this would represent. [156040]

Malcolm Wicks: This Department does not estimate the amount of electricity that will be available from individual renewable energy technologies. The renewables obligation is designed to bring forward the most cost effective means of generating electricity from such sources. However, in modelling likely future scenarios, there are conditions where future generation from landfill gas could be 10 per cent. higher than the 4.4 TWh achieved in 2006. Under the RO generation from landfill gas in the UK has increased by 65 per cent. over the last four years and in 2006 represented 24 per cent. of all generation from renewables in the UK or 1.1 per cent of total UK electricity generation.

Electronic Commerce: Fraud

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate his Department has made of the amount of money lost to online identity theft and fraud in the UK in each year since 1997; [157061]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of cases of online identity theft in the UK in each year since 1997. [157062]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The published estimates for the cost of identity theft to the UK economy do not include a specific breakdown of thefts committed online. In addition the Government do not have information on the number of cases on online identity theft recorded centrally.

To help people protect themselves from online fraud, the website www.getsafeonline.org was developed by the Government, police and industry. The website gives advice on how to stay safe online when shopping, banking or doing business over the internet, and how to protect computers and the personal information they contain.

On 9 October 2007 the Attorney General announced that funding had been approved for the proposals arising from the Government's Fraud Review. This includes the development of a National Fraud Strategic Authority, together with a National Fraud Reporting Centre, the establishment of the City of London Police as the Lead Force on fraud, and proposals for measurement of fraud. These measures will help to tackle fraud and increase our understanding of the nature and extent of the problem.

Energy Supply

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps he is taking to assist those households living in fuel poverty that are not connected to the mains gas network; [156368]

(2) what steps he is taking to assist households off the mains gas network to take full advantage of a competitive energy market; [156369]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to assist households and communities not connected to the mains gas network; [156370]

(4) what discussions he has had with Ministers at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the energy needs of households not connected to gas mains. [156372]

Malcolm Wicks: We recognise, and are addressing, the need to help fuel poor households both off and on the gas network. The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for gas regulation, including transportation and distribution. As part of the post-2008 Gas Distribution Price Control, Ofgem is currently consulting on measures that would encourage gas distribution network companies to provide connections to deprived communities currently off the gas network. Such communities are likely to contain a higher than average proportion of fuel poor households.

The Design and Demonstration Unit within my Department has successfully developed a model for the provision of gas connections to deprived communities by independent gas transporters. A number of connections have been made using this model. The unit has also developed models to provide lower-cost household energy from renewable and other new technologies for those deprived communities where gas connections are not economically viable. We expect demonstration projects in North-East England and

Yorkshire and Humberside that use these models to begin shortly. Assistance for fuel poor and vulnerable households within such communities is also available under other Government programmes, including DEFRA's Warm Front programme.

Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Ministers frequently discuss the energy needs of vulnerable households both off and on the gas network with Ministers at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Energy: Billing

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of Ofgem's conclusion in its factsheet number 67, Prepayment Meters and Fuel Poverty, that a premium of £106 per year for pre-payment meter customers is more desirable than a premium of £14 for all energy customers. [157404]

Malcolm Wicks: Government believe that independently regulated competitive markets are the most cost-effective and efficient way to deliver our energy policy goals. It is for energy suppliers to determine their pricing structure, taking into account the different cost to serve for different customers.

Prepayment meter rates are often higher because of the higher costs of the meters and the payment infrastructure that supports them. Some companies have equalised their prepayment and standard credit tariffs, but others have not. It is true that the differences between the rates paid by direct debit customers and those paid by others (both standard credit and prepayment meter customers) have widened. I am concerned about these increases, and am working with Ofgem to consider ways to encourage further protection of the most vulnerable consumers from the large differences in bills because of the payment method they use and to spread best practice across suppliers.

Hearing Aid Council

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what date he expects the registration of private sector audiologists to transfer from the Hearing Aid Council to the Health Professions Council. [158639]

Mr. Thomas: My officials continue to work towards the deadline of April 2009, which the Government committed to in response to the Hampton Report.

We intend to repeal the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968 as part of the transfer process and officials are considering whether the new Legislative Reform Orders (LROs) are sufficient for this purpose. If it is determined that wholesale repeal of the Act is beyond the scope of LRO then we will pursue the matter using primary legislation, which would of course be subject to pressure on the parliamentary timetable.

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements will be made for consumer protection for people purchasing private hearing aids following the abolition of the Hearing Aid Council. [158698]

Mr. Thomas: My officials have worked with the Hearing Aid Council (HAC) executive to ensure that repealing the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968 and regulating private audiology under the Health Professions Council (HPC) will not reduce consumer protection.

This exercise has concluded that typical issues raised by complainants to the HAC would be covered adequately by existing and upcoming consumer protection legislation. Indeed, consumer protection is likely to be increased upon transposition of the EU Unfair Commercial Practices Directive next year.

For instance, sales visits in the home, high pressure sales practices, misleading advice or sales information would be covered by the doorstep selling regulations and the forthcoming Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, which implement the EU Unfair Commercial Practices Directive.

The new regulations will strengthen consumer protection by introducing a general prohibition on unfair commercial (mainly marketing and selling) practices. The regulations, which will come into force in April 2008, are intended to ensure that consumers have the information necessary to make free and informed choices, and are not treated aggressively, including by means of high pressure selling techniques. They include rules prohibiting conduct which misleads the average consumer by what is said or omitted to be said, and thereby causes or is likely to cause him to take a decision he would not have taken otherwise. The regulations also prohibit aggressive practice which impairs the average consumer's freedom of choice with regard to the product and thereby causes, or is likely to cause him to take a different decision.

My officials believe that these measures will be more than sufficient to protect consumers from dubious practices following the abolition of the Hearing Aid Council.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list his Department's and its predecessors' *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations in each financial year since 2005-06. [156627]

Mr. Thomas: All the information requested is set out in section 3.3 of the Department's annual report and accounts for 2006-07 (pages 125 to 130). This includes all the changes from 2005-06. The report can be accessed on the BERR website at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file40578.pdf and in the House of Commons Library.

Changes since the 2006-07 annual report are as follows:

The creation of the Technology Strategy Board (on 1 July 2007), an executive NDPB.

On 28 June 2007, with the creation of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and of the Department for Innovation, Universities, and Skills, the transfer of the following bodies was announced:

Local Better Regulation Office (an NDPB, and a company limited by guarantee) and the Better Regulatory Commission, (and advisory NDPB) to transfer from Cabinet Office to BERR.

From DTI to DIUS:

Executive Agencies

National Weights and Measures Laboratory

UK Intellectual Property Office.

Executive NDPBs

British Hallmarking Council

Design Council

Arts and Humanities Research Council

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Council for Central Laboratory Research Council (CCLRC) and Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC): merged into the Science and Technology Facilities Council on 1 April 2007.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Economic and Social Research Council

Natural Environment Research Council

Medical Research Council

Technology Strategy Board.

Advisory NDPBs

Council for Science and Technology.

Tribunal

Copyright Tribunal

Insolvency Practitioners Tribunal.

Oil: Exploration

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to make an announcement on the 24th round of oil and gas licensing in Cardigan Bay and the Moray Firth. [157740]

Malcolm Wicks: My officials are carrying out an appropriate assessment of the potential impacts of licensing in Cardigan Bay. When that assessment has been concluded I will be in a position to take a decision on whether or not to license the blocks. I have no firm date for the conclusion of the appropriate assessment.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budgets were for each regional development agency in each year of their operation. [156652]

Mr. Timms: The RDAs' spend in the period 1999-2000 to 2006-07 and their budgets for 2007-08 are set out in the following table.

	Outturn								*Budget*
	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Advantage West Midlands	103,423	112,674	140,678	204,133	239,854	217,281	309,819	281,388	295,625
East of England	29,818	36,140	54,520	88,496	80,156	84,140	139,266	139,578	138,974
East Midlands	41,117	67,197	86,070	100,706	116,795	118,774	168,447	160,813	178,018
London	0	235,490	265,815	294,827	317,279	327,642	370,588	415,625	374,297
North West	141,367	155,750	269,688	274,032	309,092	366,720	402,490	401,950	402,678
One North East	92,280	97,736	158,181	192,860	223,000	226,528	253,925	273,296	280,868
South East	63,473	73,235	97,322	111,911	135,706	110,225	165,374	171,858	165,978
South West	43,028	61,736	84,780	102,856	99,052	113,368	167,637	170,536	161,308
Yorkshire Forward	121,298	124,950	207,491	211,453	244,249	287,966	309,714	312,684	308,741
Total	635,804	964,908	1,364,545	1,581,274	1,765,183	1,852,644	2,287,260	2,327,728	2,306,487

Seals: Animal Products

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2259W, on seals: animal products, what assessment he made of the action by other EU states before providing his reply. [157927]

Mr. Thomas: The Government take note of the actions of other member states on this issue. The UK position remains that it is seeking an EU-wide ban on the import of harp and hooded sealskins and sealskin products.

Severn Barrage

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether a feasibility study of a proposed Severn Barrage will include a cost benefit analysis of similar levels of public investment in energy efficiency and other renewable options. [157809]

Malcolm Wicks: The feasibility study, for which the detailed remit and budget are now being scoped, will consider all key aspects of a tidal barrage in the Severn estuary, including environmental, social and economic issues.

A barrage is a unique proposal and the study will look at the opportunity cost of taking it forward as compared to other investment to reduce CO_2 emissions from energy.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Opium

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government supports recent US proposals to increase the spraying of opium fields in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [157385]

David Miliband: Counter narcotics policy and implementation, including opium poppy elimination, is the responsibility of the Afghan Government. We work very closely with the US to support the Afghan Government on implementing their National Drug Control Strategy. The Afghan Government oppose the use of aerial and ground based spraying to eradicate opium poppy.

The US Government advocate spraying as one method of implementing non-negotiated forced eradication. But in their counter narcotics strategy for Afghanistan, published in August, they recognise that

"no herbicidal spray program would be implemented without the consent of the Government of Afghanistan".

The UK continues to support the piloting of ground-based spraying, subject to the agreement of the Afghan Government, to test its efficacy and impact. It should be well explained to local populations and targeted in areas of Afghanistan where the security situation permits and there is good access to legal livelihoods for farmers. At present, we judge that the disadvantages of aerial spraying outweigh the benefits. We have made our position clear to both the Afghan Government and the US.

Burma: Arms Control

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made at the United Nations for a comprehensive and mandatory arms embargo on Burma. [157831]

Dr. Howells: The UN Security Council is fully focussed on the events in Burma. UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari has briefed the Security Council on the situation in the country and the UK supports his efforts to mediate a dialogue between the political actors.

An EU arms embargo is already in place. We judge that at present there is insufficient support on the Security Council for a UN-wide ban.

Chechnya: Politics and Government

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of support for rebel groups in Chechnya from UK *(a)* assets, *(b)* groups and *(c)* individuals; and if he will make a statement. [157572]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We regularly monitor the activities of Chechen separatist groups and any possible involvement of parties based in the UK, and any implications, which this might have for the UK.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships were granted in each of the last three years, broken down by country of origin of recipient. [156937]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[Holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Details for the two academic years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the Chevening Programme annual report for each year. The reports are available at: http://www.chevening.com/about/reports/. They will also be placed in the Library of the House. The annual report for 2006-07 is not yet available and so the details for that academic year are provided in the following table. The report will also be placed in the Library of the House.

Country	*Core scheme*	*Central jointly funded*	*Fellows*	*Total*
Afghanistan	8	2	0	10
Albania	7	2	2	11
Algeria	4	0	2	6
Angola	2	0	2	4
Anguilla	1	0	0	1
Antigua	1	1	0	2
Argentina	17	6	0	23
Armenia	5	2	4	11
Australia	7	5	0	12
Azerbaijan	5	3	6	14
Bahamas	1	0	0	1
Bahrain	8	0	2	10
Bangladesh	11	1	5	17
Barbados	1	1	1	3
Belarus	3	8	0	11
Belize	2	0	0	2
Bolivia	2	4	0	6
Bosnia	10	2	0	12
Botswana	3	2	0	5
Brazil	33	8	1	42
British Virgin Islands	0	0	2	2
Brunei	3	0	0	3
Bulgaria	7	13	2	22
Burma	0	1	4	5
Cambodia	2	0	8	10
Cameroon	4	4	6	14
Canada	9	0	2	11
Cayman Islands	0	0	0	0
Chile	8	2	0	10
China	146	17	15	178
Colombia	10	1	4	15
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2
Cote D'Ivoire	0	0	0	0
Croatia	9	22	1	32
Cuba	2	0	0	2
Cyprus	6	0	0	6
Czech Republic	5	2	1	8

Country	Core scheme	Central jointly funded	Fellows	Total
Democratic Republic Of Congo	2	0	0	2
Dominica	0	0	0	0
Dominican Rep (and Haiti)	3	0	0	3
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0	0	0	0
East Jerusalem	10	10	2	22
East Timor	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	5	6
Egypt	29	1	9	39
El Salvador	1	0	0	1
Eritrea	0	0	0	0
Estonia	3	0	2	5
Ethiopia	10	0	6	16
Fiji	1	1	0	2
Gambia	1	0	0	1
Georgia	9	9	2	20
Ghana	15	5	1	21
Guatemala	1	0	2	3
Guyana	1	2	0	3
Honduras	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	21	2	0	23
Hungary	5	0	3	8
Iceland	7	0	0	7
India	68	9	2	79
Indonesia	33	8	4	45
Iran	11	3	5	19
Iraq	22	0	0	22
Israel	15	1	0	16
Jamaica	5	3	0	8
Japan	7	1	1	9
Jordan	10	5	1	16
Kazakhstan	4	2	3	9
Kenya	9	3	10	22
Kiribati	0	0	0	0
Korea	33	0	2	35
Kosovo	8	9	0	17
Kuwait	2	0	0	2
Kyrgyzstan	2	8	0	10
Laos	0	0	0	0
Latvia	3	0	1	4
Lebanon	6	1	0	7
Lesotho	1	5	0	6
Libya	7	0	0	7
Lithuania	2	0	0	2
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0
Macedonia	8	10	0	18
Madagascar	0	0	0	0
Malawi	3	10	0	13
Malaysia	27	2	5	34
Maldives	2	0	0	2
Mali	2	0	0	2
Malta	9	0	0	9
Mauritius	2	0	0	2
Mexico	43	1	8	52
Moldova	4	3	0	7
Mongolia	0	4	0	4
Montserrat	2	0	0	2
Morocco	7	0	0	7
Mozambique	3	0	0	3
Namibia	3	0	0	3
Nepal	3	1	6	10
New Zealand	2	2	0	4
Nicaragua	2	0	0	2
Niger	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	30	9	8	47
Oman	9	0	3	12
Pakistan	30	11	8	49
Panama	2	0	0	2
Papua New Guinea	2	0	0	2
Paraguay	2	0	0	2
Peru	1	2	0	3
Philippines	6	2	9	17
Poland	17	3	1	21
Qatar	3	0	0	3
Romania	11	16	0	27
Russia	37	11	2	50
Rwanda	3	0	0	3
Saudi Arabia	5	0	0	5
Senegal	3	0	0	3
Serbia and Montenegro	7	10	2	19
Seychelles	1	0	0	1
Sierra Leone	1	1	0	2
Singapore	5	0	1	6
Slovakia	4	0	2	6
Slovenia	7	0	1	8
Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
South Africa	21	11	1	33
Sri Lanka	2	0	0	2
St. Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	0
St. Lucia	0	0	0	0
St. Vincent	0	0	0	0
Sudan	4	0	11	15
Swaziland	2	2	0	4
Syria	9	3	2	14
Taiwan	4	1	0	5
Tajikistan	3	9	0	12
Tanzania	7	4	3	14
Thailand	8	0	4	12
Tonga	0	0	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	3	4	0	7
Tunisia	4	0	1	5
Turkey	44	1	11	56
Turkmenistan	3	2	0	5
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	0
Uganda	4	6	0	10
Ukraine	18	13	0	31
Uruguay	3	0	0	3
USA	0	0	0	0

Country	Core scheme	Central jointly funded	Fellows	Total
Uzbekistan	2	3	2	7
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	3	1	2	6
Vietnam	15	5	5	25
Yemen	10	0	0	10
Zambia	5	15	0	20
Zimbabwe	18	20	0	38
Total	1,214	395	229	1,838

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the expenditure on Chevening Scholarships was in each year since 1997. [157556]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Details for the eight academic years from 1998-99 to 2005-06 are given in the Chevening Programme Annual Report for each year. The reports are available at: http://www.chevening.com/about/reports/. They will also be placed in the Library of the House. There was no annual report for 1997-98 and we do not have accurate financial statistics for that year, but the cost was about £29 million. In academic year 2006-07 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent £29.7 million on Chevening Scholarships and a further £3.6 million on Chevening Fellowships. The figure for Scholarships includes £3.5 million spent on Central Jointly Funded Scholarships.

Cyprus

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when an official from the British High Commission in Cyprus last visited the closed area of Famagusta; and what reports of that visit he received. [157333]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Officials from our high commission in Nicosia last visited the closed area of Varosha in 2006 in connection with properties within Varosha owned by British citizens. They reported accordingly thereafter.

David Manning: Gifts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of the function organised by UK ambassador to the US Sir David Manning to mark the 50th birthday of Condoleezza Rice; and what the cost of the dress presented to her on that occasion was. [157825]

Dr. Howells: The dinner in question was held in honour of US Secretary of State Rice and attended by the President, First Lady and other senior figures. There were 111 guests and the cost was US$9,512.05.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations in each financial year since 2005-06. [156630]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Details of these bodies are available in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Annual Reports for the relevant years, the FCO's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) website (www.fco.gov.uk/ndpbs), the List of Ministerial Responsibilities (which is published by Cabinet Office on a regular basis and lists all executive agencies) and Public Bodies 2006 (which lists all NDPBs for 2005-06). However, for ease of reference the FCO bodies are listed as follows:

The FCO had only one executive agency, Wilton Park, in 2005-06. From 1 April 2006 the FCO's list of executive agencies increased to include both Wilton Park and FCO Services.

Since 2005-06 the FCO had the following executive NDPBs:

British Association for Central and Eastern Europe;

The British Council;

Great Britain China Centre;

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission;

Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Since 2005-06 the FCO had the following advisory NDPBs:

Diplomatic Service Appeal Board;

Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine;

Wilton Park Academic Council.

Since 2005-06 the FCO had the following tribunal NDPB:

Foreign Compensation Commission.

The FCO does not currently have any Trading Funds.

Since 2005-06 the FCO has had only one public corporation, the BBC World Service, although the British Council is also classified as a public corporation by HM Treasury for budgeting purposes only.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will break down in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms columns 1 to 8 of the subhead detail tables for his Department contained in the (i) main estimate, (ii) winter supplementary estimate and (iii) spring supplementary estimate for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08. [155999]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information in the Part II: Subhead detail table of our Supply Estimates is not broken down by near-cash/non-cash. There are no other published documents that provide a near-cash/non-cash breakdown of this data, though the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) publication (copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House) provides a useful near-cash/non-cash Departmental Expenditure Limit split (DEL) (see Tables 1.6, 1.7 and 2.1 of PESA 2007 for data for years 2001-02 to 2007-08). However, we have been able to

provide a near-cash/non-cash split against the columns in the Part II: Subhead detail table in our estimate by showing the non-cash items for each estimate against the relevant column. All other columns are near-cash.

Columns 1 to 8 of the subhead detail tables for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contained in the main estimate, winter supplementary estimate and spring supplementary estimate for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08 are all near-cash except where shown in the following table:

£000

	Main estimate	Winter supplementary	Spring supplementary
2001-02			
Admin column	1,389,060	[1]—	882,764
Of which non-cash	145,895	—	166,945
2002-03			
Admin column	891,810	[1]—	1,022,907
Of which non-cash	176,483	—	247,735
2003-04			
Admin column	958,872	[1]—	1,095,859
Of which non-cash	172,089	—	197,246
2004-05			
Admin column	951,613	842,490	861,270
Of which non-cash	162,313	162,313	162,313
2005-06			
Admin column	894,469	894,469	933,908
Of which non-cash	176,719	176,719	188,411
2006-07			
Admin column	928,228	943,069	977,836
Of which non-cash	156,719	156,719	148,719
2007-08			
Admin column	955,007	[1]—	[1]—
Of which non-cash	156,719	—	—
Other current column	824,868	—	—
Of which non-cash	50,000	—	—

[1] No estimate taken.

The aforementioned data is HM Treasury re-classifications and so will be on a different basis year on year. Detailed notes on reclassifications have been provided in the FCO Annual Reports for the years in question.

Data taken from Supply Estimates or resource accounts are not necessarily readily compatible with a near-cash/non-cash split, which is used only within the DEL budgetary controls applied by HM Treasury. The ability of Departments to provide such a split will depend partly on the extent of reconciliations between voted provision and budgetary limits.

Egypt: Prisoners

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Egyptian counterpart on the recent jailing and fining of independent journalists and editors-in-chief in Egypt. [157328]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this issue with his Egyptian counterpart. Our ambassador in Cairo, however, has raised our concerns with Ministers and officials in the Egyptian Government. There have been positive developments in freedom of expression in Egypt in recent years, but we are concerned by recent events. We will continue to raise this issue with the Egyptian Government when appropriate.

EU Countries: Cross Border Cooperation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to implement the European Grouping for Territorial Co-operation. [158184]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The legislation required for the European Grouping for Territorial Co-operation (EGTC) Regulation to take proper effect in the UK, Statutory Instrument 2007/1949, came into force on the 1 August 2007. Guidance on forming an EGTC is available on the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/regional/european-structural-funds/european-grouping-of-territorial-cooperation/page40444.html.

Currently there are no UK organisations participating in EGTCs or UK EGTCs registered in the UK.

Iraq: Resettlement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-38, how many Iraqis are eligible to receive a package of financial payment for resettlement. [157121]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS. Around 260 of locally engaged staff in Iraq have worked for us for 12 months or more and would therefore be able to apply now for financial assistance, or the other options set out in the statement, should they be made redundant or be forced to resign their jobs in what we judge to be extraordinary circumstances. We expect that most if not all of our currently employed locally engaged staff in Iraq will become eligible in due course. Officials are currently

looking at the numbers of serving staff who have worked for us for 12 months or more that would be eligible for assistance. We will provide further details at the end of the month.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqis worked for the British Government in each year since 2003 but do not qualify for a package of financial payment for resettlement. [157123]

Dr. Howells: We estimate that about 20,000 Iraqis have been employed since 2003. The large majority were for very short periods, especially in 2003 and 2004, and do not qualify for assistance.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the packages of financial payment for resettlement to begin to be made to Iraqi staff. [157124]

Dr. Howells: It is important to ensure that robust mechanisms are in place to administer the scheme fairly and effectively. I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, which promised a further announcement on the implementation of the scheme before the end of the month.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps were taken to ensure *(a)* the safety of and *(b)* recognition of the contribution made by local Iraqi staff prior to 2005. [157125]

Dr. Howells: Locally engaged Iraqi staff working for our armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq have made an invaluable contribution to the UK's efforts to support security, stability and development in the new Iraq.

At all times since 2003, we have recognised a duty of care to our serving Iraqi staff and have taken a range of measures to fulfil that.

In 2003-04, the environment in which our locally employed work force served was not the same as from 2005. The policy announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 8 October in the House is about recognising our particular debt of gratitude to those who have had a sustained association with us in uniquely difficult circumstances.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the approving authority is in determining which Iraqi staff qualify for a package of financial payment to aid resettlement. [157126]

Dr. Howells: The scheme will be administered by employing Government Departments, working with the Home Office and other interested Departments. We will announce further details of the administration of the scheme by the end of October.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq of 8 October 2007, (1) which occupations qualify as professional staff. [157127]

(2) what the difference is between staff and professional staff with regard to local Iraqi staff. [157128]

Dr. Howells: Professional staff include interpreters, translators and other Iraqi staff serving in similarly skilled roles necessitating the regular use of written or spoken English.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what coordination he has had with his counterparts in the local region on the resettlement of local Iraqi staff. [157129]

Dr. Howells: Officials have discussed this issue informally with a number of Governments within the region.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq of 8 October 2007, which countries are included in his definition of local region. [157130]

Dr. Howells: In this case the term local region covers Arabic-speaking states in the Middle East.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his estimate is of the cost of a single financial payment to aid resettlement for an Iraqi in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* elsewhere in the region. [157131]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, which promised a further announcement on this issue before the end of the month. The size of the payments is likely to be linked to salary and would therefore vary according to the individual's job, and his/her employing Department.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from where the aid resettlement package for local Iraqi staff will be funded. [157132]

Dr. Howells: The costs of the total package, including resettlement or admission to the UK and financial assistance, will be shared between employing departments and the Home Office.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the agreed circumstances are in which local Iraqi staff may receive admission to the United Kingdom. [157137]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Russian government's intention to veto any UN Security Council resolution that would give Kosovo supervised independence; and if he will make a statement. [158024]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Russia has made clear its opposition to the comprehensive proposal for a Kosovo status settlement submitted to the UN Special Envoy for Kosovo on 26 March 2007. This position has so far prevented passage of a Security Council Resolution that would allow for implementation of that proposal.

Within the Contact Group, we continue to work closely with Russia on the issue of Kosovo's future status. Negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina are ongoing, facilitated by a Troika of EU/Russian/US officials. At their last meeting in New York on 27 September, Contact Group Ministers agreed that an early resolution of Kosovo's status is crucial to the stability and security of the Western Balkans. They expressed full support for the Troika process.

Mordecai Vanunu

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Israeli Government on the continuing imprisonment of Mordechai Vanunu in that country. [157318]

Dr. Howells: Mordechai Vanunu was re-convicted on 30 April 2007 of breaching an order barring him from contacts with the foreign press. Officials from our embassy in Tel Aviv raised our concerns about Mr. Vanunu's re-conviction on 3 July. We will continue to follow developments on this case.

Palestinians: Entry Clearances

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review the visa applications of the Palestine under-19 football squad. [157312]

Dr. Howells: On 12 September, as the Minister responsible for entry clearance I requested UKvisas to review the refusal of the visa applications submitted by the Palestine National Youth Football Team. I have considered the outcome of this review and am satisfied that the decision was correct and entirely in accordance with the Immigration Rules.

Rendition

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on the provision of support and information to the US Administration in relation to the investigation of terrorism and the questioning of suspects. [157344]

Dr. Howells: The Government work closely with the US Government on issues relating to the investigation of terrorism. Many of the terrorist threats to the UK have international connections, which can only be dealt with effectively in co-operation with the intelligence and security agencies of other states. When working with the US Administration, or any other foreign government, we ensure that we act in accordance with our human rights obligations.

Russia: Human Rights

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place between his Department and the Russian Government on human rights in Russia; what progress was made during these discussions; and if he will make a statement. [158098]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have a mature and frank relationship with Russia on a wide range of human rights and democracy issues. We don't shy away from making our concerns known and Russia in turn have issues they raise with us.

We most recently raised our concerns through the EU/Russia Human Rights Consultations on 3 October. The EU raised a number of specific concerns about the human rights situation in Russia, particularly regarding freedom of expression and assembly, specifically in regard to the run-up to the parliamentary and presidential elections. Other concerns raised related to freedom of the press, the position of Russian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society following the entry into force of the law on NGO activities and the counter-extremism law, as well as respect for the rule of law and the situation in the Northern Caucasus. The two sides also discussed the issues of minorities, combating torture and maltreatment as well as the issue of women rights, including trafficking.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on human rights violations in Russia; what assessment he has made of those reports; and if he will make a statement. [158154]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office closely monitors the human rights situation in Russia and remains concerned about the ongoing reports of human rights violations, which we receive from our embassy in Moscow, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Russia media sources.

Our main concern is that these reports indicate a further shrinking of the democratic space in Russia, primarily through the recent NGO and anti-extremist laws and the restrictions imposed on opposition parties. There are concerns that this shrinking could worsen in the lead up to the parliamentary elections in December and the 2008 presidential elections. Other human rights concerns include: the restrictions on media freedom and increased risk to journalists safety; the rise in attacks on ethnic, racial and religious minorities; the increasing use of forced psychiatric treatment and detention; and the ongoing reports of extra-judicial killings, torture, abduction and arbitrary detention in Chechnya and elsewhere in the North Caucasus.

Russia: Non-Governmental Organisations

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place between his Department and the Russian government on the position of non-governmental organisations in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [158026]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have a mature and frank relationship with Russia on a wide range of human rights and democracy issues, both through specific bilateral and EU human rights consultations. We make our concerns known and they in turn have issues they raise with us.

We have consistently voiced our concerns about restrictions upon the legitimate work of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Russia. We most recently raised our concerns through the EU/Russia Human Rights Consultations on 3 October.

Some NGOs have expressed concern that the requirements imposed by the new NGO law, including registration, have limited their activities. Some individual NGOs have also found their operating environment further constrained by legislation and harassment. Many of these organisations had received funding from international institutions or from foreign governments.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to support the position of non-governmental organisations in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [158027]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Along with EU partners, we are actively monitoring implementation of the non-governmental organisations (NGO) law. We repeatedly call on the Russian authorities to implement the NGO law in line with their international commitments. Our concerns over the NGO law were raised during the EU/Russia Human Rights Consultations on 3 October.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funds NGOs working in Russia as part of its global programme of project work to develop civil society. This includes funding of NGOs working on sustainable development, human rights and economic governance issues. Many of these projects are run in full co-operation with the Russian authorities. For example, the Russian Federal Prison Service has co-operated extensively on a number of projects and has on more than one occasion expressed its gratitude for the active support of the UK on Russian prison reform.

In October 2006, the FCO held a seminar on the NGO law. It gave UK NGOs the opportunity to put questions to a senior official of the Federation Registration Service, which is responsible for registering foreign NGOs under the amended law.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan to bring to justice the perpetrators of the attack on African Union troops at Haskanita, South Darfur. [157369]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 30 September utterly condemning the recent murder of African Union Peacekeepers in Haskanita, Darfur in an attack which he went on to describe as a callous and destructive act. He also called on all sides in the conflict to commit to an immediate cessation of hostilities and to join the political process as the only route to lasting peace in Darfur. We have made clear to all sides in the conflict there can be no impunity for crimes committed in Darfur. This attack appears to have been initiated by rebel groups, which poses particular challenges in bringing the perpetrators to justice.

USA: Drugs

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance his Department has issued to UK citizens with past drugs offences who wish to travel to the US; and if he will make a statement. [158447]

Dr. Howells: Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice advises that all UK citizens with criminal convictions should consult the US embassy regarding the need to obtain a visa prior to travel, as they may not qualify for travel under the US Visa Waiver Programme.

We provide similar advice to any direct requests we receive regarding planned travel to the US for those with convictions, whether drug related or otherwise.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he intends to publish the fourth report by PricewaterhouseCoopers into the academies programme. [156437]

Jim Knight: The fourth PricewaterhouseCoopers report into the academies programme was published on the Department's website on the 19 July this year and is available in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his policy that local authorities may be providers and sponsors of academies; and if he will make a statement. [158566]

Jim Knight: Local authorities can be co-sponsors of academies. Under a co-sponsorship arrangement the lead sponsor retains majority control over the academy trust, and can appoint two local authority appointed governors to the governing body. Where the local authority is not a co-sponsor, the governing body would have only one local authority appointed governor.

Academies: Facilities

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have begun sharing their facilities with *(a)* other schools and *(b)* the local community following the changes to VAT announced in the 2007 Budget. [156436]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Department does not hold this information centrally. However, the Department's expectation is for all academies to collaborate with other schools and to be extended schools, providing access to their facilities to local communities.

Academies: Investment

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have charitable investment funds established by their sponsors following changes to the programme announced in March 2006; and what information his Department collects on the use to which such funds are put. [156255]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Sponsorship for the first Academies was provided in the form of a contribution to the capital costs of new buildings. In July 2006, the endowment model of sponsorship was introduced whereby Academy Trusts set up an endowment fund, the proceeds of which are to be used to combat the impact of deprivation on education in the local community. As at 4 October 2007, 13 Academies have had charitable investment funds established by their sponsors.

To date, the Department has not collected information from these Academies on their endowment funds. However, the model Deed of Gift requires the Academy Trust to supply the Secretary of State and the Academy Sponsor with an annual statement showing how the fund has been used. The Department will collect information from Academy Trusts on the amounts received from this form of sponsorship on a six monthly basis, in the same way as it does for traditional sponsorship, and the published Annual Accounts for each Academy will record how much has been received and how much has been spent, identifying the Endowment Fund separately from other funds.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects *(a)* Leyton and Leytonstone schools and *(b)* Wanstead and Snaresbrook schools to be included in the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [157832]

Jim Knight: The London borough of Waltham Forest has been prioritised as wave one and five of the Building Schools for the Future programme. Waltham Forest reached financial close on their BSF wave one project on 31 August 2007. Construction has commenced and the first schools are due to be open by September 2008. Wave five includes Leyton, Leytonstone and Chingford, and will be eligible for funding from 2009-10.

Conversations and preparatory work are currently ongoing between the local authority and DCSF officials, regarding Waltham Forest's strategy for secondary education, and the requirement that strategy places upon the physical school estate. Formal engagement will commence on wave five once the LA has demonstrated their readiness to deliver.

Redbridge (including Wanstead and Snaresbrook) is currently programmed as wave 13 to 15.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding from the Building Schools for the Future initiative has been spent on modern sports facilities. [155760]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information on the amount of funding spent on specific facilities within school buildings.

The total capital investment in schools will rise to over £8 billion a year by 2010-11 and the envelope of funding provided for Building Schools for the Future will support substantial investment in sports facilities where this is the local priority.

Departments: Reviews

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what independent reviews have been commissioned by his Department and its predecessors since 1 May 1997. [149933]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the policy objectives of the educational maintenance allowance were; what evaluation has been undertaken of its performance in meeting those objectives; what the criteria are for receiving the allowance; and if he will make a statement. [158608]

Jim Knight: EMA is designed to address the issue that the UK has one of the lowest rates of participation in education among 16-year-olds in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Its aim is to encourage more young people from lower income backgrounds to enter academic or vocational post-compulsory education.

EMA was subject to one of the most comprehensive evaluations of any educational initiative. The results indicated an increase in participation by 16-year-olds of 3.8 per cent. points nationally and 4.1 per cent. points nationally for 17-year-olds.

A young person will be entitled to receive EMA in England in the 2007/08 academic year if they are:

Age 16,17 or 18 and

live in a household with an annual income of £30,810 or less;

Meet the terms of their learning agreement by participating in learning which will never be less than 12 hours of guided learning hours and in most cases will be significantly more.

Their course/programme is level 1-3 with a minimum duration of 10 weeks. Full time education includes Further Education Colleges, School 6th Form and Providers who offer Entry To Employment (E2E) and Programme led Apprentices.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated to the provision of educational maintenance allowance (EMA) in each financial year since inception including piloting; how many young people received EMA in each year since its inception including piloting; what the impact of compulsory education until 18-years-old is expected to be on the EMA; what plans he has for alternative provision in the light of that policy; and what estimate he has made of the total *(a)* establishment and *(b)* annual costs of compulsory schooling to 18 years. [158609]

Jim Knight: The numbers of young people receiving EMA in each academic year since inception is shown in the table as follows:

	Numbers accessing EMA
1999/2000	14,135
2000/01	73,230
2001/02	114,254
2002/03	124,351
2003/04	126,871
2004/05	297,567
2005/06	430,327
2006/07	528,403

Expenditure on education maintenance allowance since its inception in 1999 is shown in the table as follows:

Expenditure	*£ million*
1999-2000	11
2000-01	52
2001-02	109
2002-03	120
2003-04	142
2004-05	260
2005-06	406.6
2006-07	502.9

Financial support for learning will be restructured when the compulsory participation age is raised to 18, and we are looking at a variety of methods to ensure that this is done in the most effective way to ensure young people are enabled to participate. In doing this we will build on the reforms from the Government's review of financial support for young people, and the views we gathered in the public consultation on "supporting young people to achieve".

We will ensure that there is appropriate, engaging and worthwhile provision available to all young people to enable them to participate successfully.

The estimated costs of raising the participation age are set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment published alongside the Green Paper on 22 March. This can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/RIA%20[FINAL]%20word%20version.pdf

I have placed a copy in the Library of the House. We estimate that there will be one-off costs of around £200 million, made up of £80 million for new buildings and facilities, and £120 million for the training of new staff. We estimate that there will be annual costs of around £740 million on top of costs already factored into achieving our existing aspiration of 90 per cent. participation of 17-year-olds by 2015. This is made up of £590 million in additional participation costs, £50 million in additional funding for local authorities (to run the registration system, to provide additional support and guidance, and to enforce the duty), £10 million in enforcement costs and £90 million in additional costs to support those with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Education: Assessments

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 15 year olds were *(a)* on school rolls, *(b)* entered for one or more Key Stage 4 qualification and *(c)* awarded passes for one or more such qualifications in (i) England, (ii) Wirral and (iii) Birkenhead in each year since 1997. [158214]

Jim Knight: The information that is readily available is given as follows:

The proportion of 15-year-olds on roll as a proportion of all 15-year-olds is not held by the Department.

Number of 15-year-old[1] pupils

	Birkenhead	*Wirral*	*England*
1997	996	3,899	586,766
1998	1,019	3,965	575,210
1999	785	4,029	580,972
2000	735	3,838	580,393
2001	829	4,121	603,318
2002	836	4,065	606,554
2003	880	4,233	622,122
2004	942	4,392	643,560
2005	912	4,279	636,771
2006	885	4,264	648,942

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August.

Note:
England figure includes all schools.

Source:
School Achievement and Attainment Tables

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] to be entered for one or more GCSEs or equivalent

	Wirral	*England*
1997	93.6	94.0
1998	92.9	94.6
1999	93.9	94.9
2000	94.9	95.4
2001	96.3	95.6
2002	95.8	95.7
2003	96.7	96.2
2004	96.7	97.0

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] to be entered for one or more GCSEs or equivalent

	Wirral	England
2005	97.6	97.7
2006	97.3	97.5

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August.

Note:
England figure includes all schools.

Source:
School Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The percentage of 15-year-olds to attempt GCSEs or equivalents in Birkenhead is available only at a disproportionate cost.

Percentage of 15-year-old[1] pupils to achieve any such qualification

	Birkenhead	Wirral	England
1997	88.8	92.2	92.3
1998	87.3	92.1	93.3
1999	89.4	93.1	93.9
2000	93.3	93.9	94.3
2001	96.0	95.0	94.4
2002	93.1	94.5	94.5
2003	91.4	94.7	94.8
2004	93.7	95.9	95.9
2005	93.2	96.3	96.4
2006	95.7	97.1	96.7

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August.

Note:
England figure includes all schools.

Source:
School Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Further constituency level statistics are available on the Department's In Your Area website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/inyourarea

Education: Warrington

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to increase the percentage of young people between 16 and 18 years old in Warrington education. [158717]

Jim Knight: Engagement in learning, and educational attainment, are critical if young people are to achieve good outcomes, and fulfil their potential. My Department has a number of initiatives already in place to ensure that 16 to 19-year-olds have access to education and employment with training. Our 14-19 reforms, that include an entitlement for every young person to access a Diploma programme from 2013, will ensure that all young people have the opportunity to choose a learning pathway which suits them and which can be the basis for progression to further learning, higher education and employment.

Government-funded apprenticeships offer the opportunity for young people to earn as they learn. There over 200 apprenticeships, designed by employers, available to 16 to 19-year-olds in 80 different sectors with 130,000 employers taking part. These apprenticeships give employees the opportunity to learn on the job and also through off the job training.

16 and 17-year-olds who are in employment, and who have not yet attained NVQ level 2 or equivalent, are entitled to reasonable paid time off during normal working hours to study or train for a qualification which will improve their future employment prospects. The Department is also piloting Learning Agreements to help 16 and 17-year-olds in employment get back into education and training. Young people will agree personal contracts to return to education or vocational training in return for financial support.

However, we are not complacent and know that there is a lot more to do. Numbers of 16 and 17-year-olds in full-time education have increased in Warrington from 63 per cent. in 1998 to 68 per cent. in 2005, but we need to do more to increase the number of work-based learning opportunities for young people. By 2013 we will introduce an entitlement to an apprenticeship place for all school-leavers who meet the entry criteria. It will mean that every young person leaving school who wants to continue their learning in a work-based environment can do so.

Once the Diploma and apprenticeship entitlements are in place, all young people will be required to continue in education or training post-16. The bill will include provisions to raise to 18 the minimum age at which young people can leave education or training.

European Schools Programme

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the evolution of the European Schools programme, with particular reference to its activities in England. [156946]

Jim Knight: The EU institution, European Schools, was established by an intergovernmental agreement in 1957. Its purpose is to provide an education based on mother tongue teaching for the children of officials of the EU institutions and its agencies. There are 14 schools in various countries across Europe. The Government are committed to the future of the European Schools and fulfils their obligations under the 1994 Convention Defining the Statute of the European Schools through its membership of the governing body. The United Kingdom has one school in Culham in Oxfordshire. It was established in the late 1970s to support the employees of the EFDA-JET project based at Culham Laboratories.

At its meeting in April 2007 in Lisbon, the European Schools' Board of Governors took a decision to allow Culham School to leave the European Schools system because it no longer has enough pupils entitled to an education under the provisions of the intergovernmental agreement. The decision allows Culham to stay in the system until at least 2010, but its transition into either the state or private sector must be completed by 2017. The EFDA decision to phase out its project at Culham and move the remaining work to its other base in France has contributed to this decision.

It is too early to say exactly what the future holds for Culham School, but my officials are working in support of the parents and management of the school to ensure a smooth transition.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in Suffolk passed five GCSEs including English and mathematics at A* to C grade in each of the last five years. [156768]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

Percentage of 15-year-olds[1] gaining 5 or more GCSEs at A-C including English and Maths*

	Suffolk	*England[2]*
2002	42.5	42.1
2003	42.8	41.9
2004	43.1	42.6
2005	45.9	44.3
2006	45.8	45.3

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August. [2] England figure includes all schools.
Source: School Achievement and Attainment Tables.

GSCE and A-level: Sports

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of students studied GCSE sports studies in each local authority in each year since 1997; [158543]

(2) how many and what proportion of students studied *(a)* AS-level and *(b)* A-level sports studies in each local authority in each year since 1997. [158544]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However national figures for GCSE, and A-Level are readily available.

Figures on the number of 15-year-olds[1] to attempt GCSE Physical Education are provided in the following table:

	Number of 15-year-olds	*Percentage of 15-year-olds*
1997	80,914	13.8
1998	83,665	14.5
1999	93,503	16.1
2000	96,769	16.7
2001	105,651	17.5
2002	111,750	18.4
2003	110,744	17.8
2004	121,433	18.9
2005	141,945	22.3
2006	151,185	23.3

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August
Source:
School Achievement and Attainment Tables

Numbers and proportions of A-level candidates to attempt a GCE A-level in Sports/Physical Education are provided in the following table.

	Number of Sports/Physical Education candidates	*Proportion of all A-level candidates*
1997	11,696	5.1
1998	13,680	5.8
1999	14,740	6.2
2000	15,853	6.9
2001	16,779	7.0
2002	16,655	6.5
2003	18,763	7.0
2004	19,234	7.3
2005	19,759	7.5
2006	21,533	8.3

Primary Education: Teaching Methods

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the criteria are for the one-to-one tuition of 300,000 primary school pupils recently announced by the Prime Minister; and whether this will be available to primary schools in Darwen, Lancashire. [158442]

Jim Knight: The Prime Minister announced that the Government would be offering one-to-one tuition for over 300,000 under-attaining pupils a year in English by 2010-11, and over 300,000 pupils a year in Maths. We are currently planning how this should be delivered and will use lessons learned from the tuition element of the "Making Good Progress" pilot, and other existing individual intervention programmes, to inform this.

Schools: Cadets

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many combined cadet force units there were in mainstream schools in each local education authority in each of the last 10 years. [151214]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

The MOD does not hold a record of the local authority of each school with a Combined Cadet Force (CCF) contingent. Our records are based on the Army's regional Brigade areas.

The total number of CCF contingents in the last 10 years is:

	Number
1997	242
1998	241
1999	239
2000	237
2001	241
2002	244
2003	248
2004	250
2005	251
2006	253
2007	260

Schools: Extracurricular Activities

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of schools that offer after school activities until 6 pm in England, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency. [157728]

Beverley Hughes: We do not collect information centrally on the number of schools providing after school activities. We do, however, have information on the number and percentages of schools providing access to the full core offer of extended services in England. For primary schools this includes providing access to child care and a varied menu of activities. For secondary schools it includes providing access to a varied menu of activities. The lists which have been placed in the Library show the number and percentage

of schools in each region and constituency that are providing access to full core offer of extended services.

There are many other schools which are already providing parts of the core offer, including a varied menu of activities, and developing access to other services which are not yet included in these figures.

We want all schools to offer access to extended services by 2010, including providing access to a range of activities, with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by September 2008. Primary schools are expected to provide, as part of the core offer, access to affordable child care at or through their school from 8 am to 6 pm all year round, which is linked to a varied menu of activities. Secondary schools are not expected to offer formal child care but they are expected to provide access to a varied menu of activities in a safe place to be, before and after school from 8 am to 6 pm and during the school holidays in response to demand. Activities may include study support activities such as sports clubs, music tuition, dance, drama and art clubs.

We are providing over £1.1 billion for extended schools in England for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his latest estimate is of the total cash balances held by all schools in each year between 1990-91 and 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [156967]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on deducting money from schools' balances; and if he will make a statement; [156968]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the amount of schools' surplus balances which will be clawed back and redistributed in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [157577]

(4) if he will publish all guidance issued to local authorities since 1 January 2007 on cash balances held by schools; and if he will make a statement; [157589]

(5) what powers he has to claw back excess cash balances held by *(a)* academies, *(b)* trust schools and *(c)* foundation schools; and if he will make a statement; [157590]

(6) what his most recent estimate is of the excess cash balances held by each school in England; [157591]

(7) what assessment he has made of the legality of clawing back unspent allocations of Standards Fund monies from schools; and if he will make a statement; [157592]

(8) how many schools had an excess cash balance in each reporting period from 1997-98 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [157594]

(9) what his latest estimate is of the proportion of cash surpluses held by schools in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08 which represents committed expenditure on future projects; and if he will make a statement; [157595]

(10) what plans he has to fine schools for holding excessive balances; and if he will make a statement; [157596]

(11) whether he plans to take steps to stop schools from being required to give up a proportion of cash surpluses held by them in 2006-07 which has subsequently been spent; and if he will make a statement; [157597]

(12) what his most recent estimate is of the total surplus cash balances held by schools in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement; [157598]

(13) when he plans to make a statement on the redistribution of a proportion of surplus cash balances held by schools on 31 March; [157599]

Jim Knight: Total net closing revenue balances for local authority maintained schools for the financial years for which data are available are set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Total revenue balance*[1,2]
1999-00[3]	740,691,354
2000-01	1,085,602,004
2001-02	1,256,776,093
2062-03[4]	1,192,864,397
2003-04	1,323,989,041
2004-05	1,532,855,786
2005-06	1,570,348,360

[1] A school's total revenue balance is calculated from the combination of any unspent allocations (including unspent Standards Fund grants) and the cumulative balance of income less expenditure from revenue funding sources during the financial year and any balances carried forward from previous years. This is drawn by adding together the unspent allocations and balance carried forward columns from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements 1999-2000 to 2001-02 (Table 2) and Consistent Financial Reporting categories B01 and B02 from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements (Table B) from 2002-03 onwards.

[2] Included are all local authority maintained schools correctly reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Outturn Statement. Local authority maintained nursery schools with delegated budgets have only been collected on Section 52 from 2003-04 onwards.

[3] School level revenue balances are not available prior to the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

[4] In 2002-03 the Section 52 outturn categories were aligned with the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) framework following the introduction of CFR to schools. The change in sources is shown by the blank row. Some inconsistencies with the balance figures reported by local authorities' in 2002-03 were identified and consequently caution should be exercised when using the balance figures for that year.

The Department is currently collecting and validating local authorities' outturn data for the financial year 2006-07 and we will publish this later in the autumn. But early indications are that the total of balances has increased again.

It is right that schools should be able to accrue revenue balances from one year to the next in support of strategic, long term, financial planning. However, I am clear that it is not acceptable for Government to allow balances to continue to accumulate. At the end of 2005-06, total net revenue balances were 5.3 per cent. of schools' total income. For schools with a positive balance, the figure is 6.7 per cent. of total income. Moreover, around 17 per cent. of schools had held an excess surplus for each of the last five years. This is taxpayers' money voted by Parliament for the education of the pupils in schools in the year in question and it should not be steadily accumulating in schools' bank accounts.

We are therefore taking action on two fronts to bring the total down. We have introduced a requirement that, from 2007-08, all local authorities must, where they do not already, operate a balance control mechanism enabling them to claw back excess surplus balances. These are defined in the guidance as uncommitted revenue balances above 8 per cent. of total income for primary and special schools and 5 per cent. for secondary schools. The guidance is available in the Library of the House and can be viewed at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schemesforfinancingschools/

To be effective, claw-back requires local authorities to scrutinise schools' plans for using their excess surplus balances and reach a judgement on whether the balance is genuinely committed to be spent for a specific purpose within a specified timescale. Claw-back is only as effective, therefore, as the local authority's scrutiny is rigorous.

In 2005-06, local authorities reported that £988 million or 62.9 per cent. of balances was committed for specific purposes. However what is defined as a committed revenue balance varies from one local authority to another and the split of total revenue balances into committed and uncommitted balances is not reliable. For example, in 2005-06, 37 local authorities reported less than 25 per cent. of their total revenue balances as committed whereas 62 LAs reported more than 75 per cent. of their total revenue balance as committed.

The Government expect claw-back to have some impact but we believe it is right to take further action on all balances to ensure that their overall level reduces so that some of this money is used to support the education of today's pupils. We proposed in the consultation on the school, early years and 14 to 16 funding arrangements in spring this year to require all local authorities to redistribute locally 5 per cent. of all positive revenue balances from 2008-09. Local authorities will decide with their Schools Forum how the money is to be redistributed locally to support local needs and priorities.

I announced in my statement of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2WS, our decision to proceed with this proposal, and in September my Department published an Explanatory Note for local authorities and Schools Forums on the school funding arrangements for the next three years, including further detail on how the balance redistribution would work in practice. The Explanatory Note is available in the Library and on TeacherNet at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolfunding2008to11.

The Department is now consulting on the draft school finance regulations for 2008 which would bring the balance redistribution into effect. The proposition is that local authorities should calculate 5 per cent. of the most recent positive revenue balance for all schools, and add this sum to the total Schools Budget for the coming year. For 2008-09, it is proposed that this should be final balances at the end of 2006-07 since final balances for 2007-08 will not be known before authorities notify schools of their budgets by the end of March. Consultation closes on 26 October and I will announce our final decisions on the redistribution in the light of the comments received. Details of the consultation can be viewed at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolfundingframework/

and copies are available in the Library.

It is clear from early responses that schools are particularly concerned about the use of 2006-07 balances. We will want to look very carefully at this aspect of the proposals in particular in reaching final decisions in the light of the consultation.

Local authority claw-back mechanisms and the proposed balance redistribution apply to all local authority maintained schools including foundation and trust schools. Academies and city technology colleges (CTCs) are not subject to the same rules on the carry-forward of balances as maintained schools. Instead, the requirements are set out in their individual funding agreements. The normal provision is that the academy or CTC may carry forward at the end of any year a sum which at maximum is 12 per cent. of the General Annual Grant (GAG) for the year just ended; and within that overall limit only 2 per cent., at most, of the preceding year's GAG can be carried forward for revenue spend; the rest must be for capital purposes. This calculation is not cumulative—that is, the total sum carried forward should never grow larger than 12 per cent. of the preceding year's GAG. Adherence to these limits is monitored by the Department and GAG may be clawed back if they are exceeded, although the Secretary of State is empowered under the funding agreements to approve a higher limit in individual cases. There are no plans to change these provisions.

Standards Fund grants are paid under sections 14-18 of the Education Act 2002. Section 16 allows the Secretary of State to set the terms of those payments, including the circumstances in which grant is to be repaid, and how grant should be distributed to schools.

In my written ministerial statement of 15 March, *Official Report*, column 18WS I announced the publication by my Department of a summary of the data on school balances for the financial years for which information is available—1999-2000 to 2005-06. This includes data on balances for all local authority maintained schools, together with regional and local authority level summaries. It shows the proportions declared to be committed and uncommitted and the amount of balances meeting the definition of "excess balances". Copies have been placed in the Library and the information is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=84.

Information on closing balances is collected after the end of the financial year so data for 2007-08 onwards are not yet available. As already noted, my Department will publish data for 2006-07 later this autumn.

In 2005-06 positive balances totalled just over £1.7 billion. A redistribution of 5 per cent. of all positive balances in all authorities would deliver in the region of £85 million in 2008-09 to support locally agreed priorities. As total balances reduce over the spending review period it is anticipated that the income generated through the redistribution will be marginally reduced, however it is not currently possible to predict the total surplus balances over this period.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he plans to publish the results of his Department's consultation on a proposed levy of 5 per cent. on school surplus balances; [158292]

(2) how many submissions to his consultation on a proposed levy of 5 per cent. on school surplus balances have *(a)* supported, *(b)* opposed and *(c)* expressed concerns about the proposed levy. [158293]

Jim Knight: The Department is currently consulting on the draft school finance regulations for 2008 which will give effect to the proposal to require local authorities to redistribute locally 5 per cent. of all surplus revenue school balances. The consultation closes on 26 October and we will consider carefully all the representations received before taking final decisions. A report on the outcome of the consultation, including an analysis of responses, will be published on the TeacherNet website and a copy placed in the Library of the House as soon as possible after the close of consultation.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* competition managers and *(b)* sports co-ordinators for schools have been appointed. [155759]

Jim Knight: This information is not collected centrally.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many climbing walls there are in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools. [156685]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on numbers of schools with climbing walls.

Schools: Vetting

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average amount of time taken was for a Criminal Records Bureau check to be completed on a potential member of school staff in 2006-07. [151168]

Kevin Brennan: The information sought by the hon. Member is not available. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is unable to provide information on Disclosure applications based on employment sector.

Data concerning the average waiting time taken to complete a Disclosure are not a performance target and are not collated by the CRB. The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within 28 days. During 2007 the CRB has consistently exceeded the PSS and in August 2007, the CRB issued 100 per cent. of Standard Disclosures and 96 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within PSS.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils who attained level 5 or below in the 2007 Key Stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science in each year since 1997 had previously attained level 5 or above at Key Stage 2; [155901]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils who took the Key Stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science in each year since 1997 attained the same level or below the level they attained at Key Stage 2 (i) in total and (ii) for pupils who attained (A) level 3, (B) level 4 and (C) level 5 at Key Stage 2. [156041]

Jim Knight: The information available has been placed in the House Library.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

National Affordable Housing Programme

23. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which housing organisations received funding from the National Affordable Housing Programme; and how much each has been awarded. [158173]

Mr. Iain Wright: Around 339 registered social landlords and other bodies received public funding as part of the 2006-08 Affordable Housing Programme via the Housing Corporation. These organisations may have bid as part of a partnership or as an individual specialist provider.

As part of their grant allocation process for the AHP 2006-08, the Housing Corporation published regional allocation statements. These list lead partners and individual specialist providers and grant allocations that they have received for that programme.

Northumberland Unitary Authority

24. **Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects elections to take place for a Northumberland unitary authority. [158174]

John Healey: In our Discussion Paper 'Councils' Proposals for Unitary Local Government: An Approach to Implementation' published on 22 August we invited the views of those councils potentially affected by restructuring on when elections for any new unitary authorities should be held. That paper indicated that the options for elections in May 2008 or May 2009 are finely balanced and we are now considering the views we have received.

Planning White Paper

25. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the Planning White Paper. [158175]

Hazel Blears: 30,000 responses were received to the consultation on the Planning White Paper. The Government will produce a summary of responses, including next steps, shortly. However, Ministers continue to receive a range of letters and other representations on the issues raised in the Planning White Paper.

Migration: Housing Plans

26. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will hold discussions with the Home Secretary on the potential impact of migration on the Government's plans for housing. [158176]

Hazel Blears: Household growth in England is being driven by a combination of factors, including increasing longevity, growing numbers of people living alone and migration. The most recent household projections indicate that 223,000 new households will form each year up to 2026, of which 155,000 or 70 per cent., will be single person households.

Ministers from the Home Office and Communities and Local Government discuss the impact of migration on a range of services throughout the United Kingdom, including housing, at meetings of the Migration Impacts Forum.

The Forum, which has a remit to focus on the transitional impacts and social benefits of migration experienced by local areas, is co-chaired by Ministers from the Home Office and Communities and Local Government, and is made up of representatives from both within and outside of Government. The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 17 October.

Local Government Settlements: Broxtowe

27. **Dr. Palmer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the impact of floors and ceilings in the local government settlements on Broxtowe local authority. [158177]

John Healey: Floor damping ensures that the year-on-year change for all authorities is limited i.e. that no authority receives a large year-on-year decrease. Although Broxtowe has been a net contributor to the floor over the past five years, it has received year-on-year increases in formula grant well above inflation throughout this period.

Planning Appeal: Longford

28. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to be able to determine the planning appeal by Hitchens in Longford. [158178]

Mr. Iain Wright: The dates for the inquiry into this planning appeal have yet to be agreed with the parties. In line with the provisions of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, we will set a statutory target for deciding this case following the close of the inquiry, and I will arrange for you to be notified both at that time and when the decision is issued.

Local Government Structures

29. **Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for further reform of local government structures; and if she will make a statement. [158179]

Hazel Blears: There are no plans for a future rolling programme of restructuring. However, we recognise that there may be specific areas where in future there is some appetite for change and where it would be right to issue a focussed and targeted invitation to the councils concerned.

Building Control Documents: Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public authorities, including Executive agencies and Government Departments, will have access to the data from the electronic communications of building control documents. [157647]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current consultation on the "Enabling Electronic Communication of Building Control Documents" will in no way change access rights to building control documents held by local authorities. However, it should be noted that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) applies to all information (electronic or otherwise) held by local authorities, including building control documents. FOI requests can be made by public authorities, including Executive agencies and Government Departments.

Buildings: Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her proposals for enabling electronic communication of building control documents will include data on specific domestic properties which undertake building control work. [157668]

Mr. Iain Wright: The "Enabling Electronic Communication of Building Control Documents" Regulations proposal, currently out for public consultation, would, subject to the outcome of the consultation and approval of regulations, allow discretionary transmission of all building control documents by electronic means, e.g. applications, notices and certificates. These documents would also include those relating to domestic properties.

Caravan Sites

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons her Department has declined to give local authorities greater powers to use temporary stop notices to tackle unauthorised development in relation to caravans on unauthorised sites. [157649]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's policy is to increase the provision of sites for Gypsy and Travellers, linked to firm but fair use of enforcement powers. In March 2007 Communities and Local Government consulted on an amendment to the temporary stop notice regulations, which would give further powers to local authorities to prohibit the stationing of a caravan already on an unauthorised site, if there was an alternative, authorised site for the residents to move onto. Consultees from various sectors stated use of the proposed new powers would be extremely limited while the need for authorised site provision is so high. We are

prepared to revisit the proposed amendment at an appropriate time when authorised provision has been increased to an extent that the powers may be of practical benefit to local authorities.

Community Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government plan to issue a formal response to the Quirk review of Community Management and Ownership of Assets. [157651]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government published "Opening the Transfer Window: The Government's Response to the Quirk Review of Community Management and Ownership of Assets" on 22 May 2007, in which they made a commitment to implement the Quirk Review's proposals in full.

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the £50 million for community cohesion announced in her Department's press release of 6 October is *(a)* new additional funding, *(b)* part of an existing funding stream and *(c)* replacing an existing funding stream; and over what period the funding will be made available; [157491]

(2) by what criteria allocations will be made to local authorities from the £50 million for community cohesion announced in her Department's press release of 6 October; and whether the funding will be ring-fenced. [157492]

Mr. Dhanda: Support for local authorities for community cohesion will rise from £2 million per annum to approximately £50 million over the CSR 2007 period from April 2008 to March 2011.

£20.5 million is new additional funding; £6 million is part of existing funding streams; and £23 million replaces existing funding streams that were due to cease.

The criteria upon which community cohesion related allocations are to be made have yet to be decided upon. Further allocation details will be announced as part of local government settlement in December.

Money will not be ring-fenced and performance will be monitored through the new streamlined Local Government Performance Framework.

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will set a target for clearing the backlog of council house repairs. [157358]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 1997 the Government set a target to clear the £19 billion backlog of repairs to council housing. In 2001 this target was incorporated into the new "Decent Homes" target to bring all social housing into a decent condition.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what change there has been in the council housing repair backlog since 2001; how many houses were awaiting repair in 2001; and how many are awaiting repair. [157360]

Mr. Iain Wright: Latest local authority annual Business Plans estimated that 1 million local authority dwellings were awaiting improvement work as at 1 April 2007, compared with 2.2 million at the same point in 2001.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* housing association properties, *(b)* directly managed properties and *(c)* arms length management properties which will not meet the decent homes standard by 2010. [157395]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect 95 per cent. of social sector homes to be decent by 2010, this will leave around 200,000 social homes below the decent homes standard. This breaks down to around 40,000 non-decent homes owned by registered social landlords and 160,000 owned by local authorities. We do not yet have detailed information which will allow us to break down the local authority data between those homes managed by ALMOs and those directly managed by the council.

Departments: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on *(a)* champagne and wine and *(b)* alcohol in the last year for which audited figures are available. [157619]

Mr. Dhanda: This information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on staff members flying *(a)* first class, *(b)* business class and *(c)* economy class. [157684]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current policy of the Department for Communities and Local Government is that staff are required to travel economy class unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed beforehand by a senior manager.

Departments: Billing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason her Department failed to meet its service delivery agreement target for paying undisputed bills on time in 2006-07. [157673]

Mr. Dhanda: During 2006-07, the Department implemented changes to the way the financial support role was delivered. Non-compliance to the procurement processes resulted in a down-turn in prompt payment

performance. Further changes are planned to streamline the invoice processing function, which may lead to an initial minor deterioration in performance. However, medium to long-term performance is expected to improve.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of invoices for undisputed bills for her Department were paid within 30 days of receipt of the invoice, or within the contractual term if less, in 2006-07; and what the target was for prompt payment of invoices. [157691]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities paid 74,004 undisputed invoices within 30 days of receipt of the invoice, or within the contractual term if less, in 2006-07. This is 95.37 per cent. of total invoices paid. The target for prompt payment of invoices is 98 per cent.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham, of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1139W, on Departments: carbon emissions, how many individual flights were offset; and what proportion were outside the European Union. [157847]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government offset carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from 1,460 individual flights undertaken during 2006-07. Of these, 9 per cent. were outside the European Union.

Departments: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the resource accounts for her Department for 2006-07 were published. [157693]

Mr. Iain Wright: The accounts were laid in the House of Commons on 12 July 2007, and published by the Stationary Office on that date (HC 836). They were published on the Communities website on 16 August 2007.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many ministerial cars are allocated to her Department by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [157687]

Mr. Dhanda: Six.

Departments: Official Engagements

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what engagements have been undertaken by her and her departmental Ministers in the last three months. [156424]

Hazel Blears: A table showing the meetings which the ministerial team has had with external organisation and individuals in the period between 1 July and 1 October has been placed in the Library of the House.

Details of the internal meetings are not placed in the public domain as to do so would inhibit the frank exchange between Ministers and officials which is necessary to policy development.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's expenditure was on honoraria payments in the last year for which figures are available. [155701]

Mr. Dhanda: There are no records of any honoraria payments by Central Department for Communities and Local Government. This does not include the Government Offices or the Department's agencies for whom information is not collected centrally.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide a breakdown of the central Government public expenditure by her Department listed as development of English regions on page 36 of her Department's resource accounts for 2006-07 (HC 836). [157487]

Mr. Dhanda: Of the total £1,306.9 million 'RFR1 E: Development of English Regions' spend 'Central Government Spending', £1,280.5 million was expenditure on the Department's contribution to the funding of the Regional Development Agencies (which was channelled via the former DTI).

The other expenditure of £26.4 million is the total of the following expenditure: £19.3 million on the 'Northern Way Growth Fund'; £6.6 million on 'Regional Chambers'; and £0.5 million on 'Mersey Basin Business Foundation'.

Departments: Religious Sects

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received on cultish behaviour in the *(a)* Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* New Kadampa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International. [157747]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 667W.

Departments: Road Traffic offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157859]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government (CLG) operates a general policy whereby the payment of any fixed penalty tickets incurred by civil servants, either during the hire period of a vehicle or while a private car is being used on official business, is the responsibility of the individual undertaking the travel

and not the Department. However, payment of fixed penalty tickets relating to allocated ministerial cars, incurred while carrying out official duties, is deemed to be the responsibility of the department. During the 2006-07 financial year, the Department paid fixed penalty fines to the sum of £200.00.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff are seconded to her Department from outside government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157860]

Mr. Dhanda: There were 108 individuals seconded to the centre of the Department for Communities and Local Government as at 31 August 2007. Information on secondments to the Government offices or the Department's agencies is not collected centrally.

These are broken down by (a) the type of body from which the secondment is drawn and (b) by the length of the secondment as at 31 August in the two tables as follows.

(a) Type of body from which secondment is drawn

	Number of secondments
Local Government Sector	61
Other Public sector	5
Academia	2
Private Sector	1
Not-for-profit Sector	1
Information not held centrally	38
Grand total	108

(b) Length of secondment as at 31 August 2007

	Total
Less than 1 year	44
Between 1 and 2 years	23
Between 2 and 3 years	13
Between 3 and 4 years	11
4 years or more	17
Grand total	108

Departments: Speeches

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance civil servants who are not special advisers provided to her and her Department's Ministers in preparing speeches at the Labour Party Conference in September. [157493]

Mr. Dhanda: In accordance with the Ministerial Code, civil servants who were not special advisers provided no direct assistance to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, or to her Department's Ministers, in the preparation of speeches for the 2007 Labour Party Conference.

Departments: Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1650W, on departments: training, what the titles were of the conferences that *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in her Department attended from 1 July 2006 to 30 July 2007. [157504]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Documents: English Language

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on the provision of public documents in English; and if she will make a statement; [156950]

(2) whether it is a statutory requirement for local councils to provide public documents in languages other than English; [156951]

(3) what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* non-statutory guidance is provided to local authorities on the provision of public documents in languages other than English. [156976]

Mr. Dhanda: In England, there is no statutory requirement for local councils to provide public documents in languages other than English. Communities and Local Government has not issued any statutory or non statutory guidance to local authorities on the provision of public documents in languages other than English. The independent Commission on Integration and Cohesion recommended that there should be guidance and set out what this might look like as part of its final report. As recently announced, based on the Commission's advice, we will be publishing new non-statutory guidance on translation for local authorities and public bodies in the coming weeks.

However, we do believe knowledge of English is a vital part of integration into British society, as well as a personal advancement.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 75W, on the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, what investigations took place into the allegations made against the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, the New Kadampa Tradition and Soka Gakkai International before her Department took the final decision to grant funds to the three organisations from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. [157746]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer to the earlier answer given on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 555W.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire control staff are planned in *(a)* each regional fire control centre and *(b)* each region following the implementation of FireControl. [158048]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table gives the estimated number of fire control staff for each Regional Control Centre (RCC) following the implementation of FiReControl. These numbers were published in the Full Business Case in June 2007 and include control room operators, managers and other support staff. The actual number of staff employed will be for each RCC company to determine.

	Estimated RCC numbers
East Midlands	81
East of England	85
London	114
North West	103
North East	76
South East	93
South West	85
West Midlands	91
Yorkshire and Humberside	86
Total	814

All numbers are in terms of full-time equivalents.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire control room staff there are in *(a)* each fire authority and *(b)* England. [158049]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 561-62.

Fire Services: Terrorism

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the risk of *(a)* co-ordinated terror attacks and *(b)* collective systems failure at the proposed new nine regional fire control rooms; and if she will make a statement. [157479]

Mr. Dhanda: FiReControl will form part of the UK's Critical National Infrastructure (CNI). The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) has been consulted regarding general threats to the UK's Critical National Infrastructure, and specific threats to the fire and rescue services.

Full threat and risk assessments, to HMG security standards, have been conducted (and are continually revised and updated) to examine all threats to the FiReControl system; physical and electronic attacks, both deliberate and accidental. These include threats relating to terrorist activity.

The threats have been considered; together with an assessment of their likelihood and the impact they could have on the business functions of FiReControl, to determine the appropriate countermeasures for the system. These countermeasures consist of a combination of physical, procedural and technical measures.

The FiReControl systems are being designed to ensure they are resistant to collective systems failures across the network. These requirements have been included in the contract for provision of the technology. Risk assessments of system failures were conducted prior to selecting the preferred supplier. These assessments addressed the reliability of the technology itself, and the possibility of external events which could cause system failure.

To provide a further level of resilience, CLG is developing business continuity plans in conjunction with experts from the fire and rescue service to ensure that the control service can continue if there is a system failure.

First Time Buyers: Income

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio between the mean average price of a house for first time buyers and mean average household income was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government Office Region in England in (i) 1997 or the earliest time after that for which figures are available and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [157627]

Mr. Iain Wright: Mix-adjusted house prices for first-time buyers are calculated by Communities and Local Government using the Regulated Mortgage Survey with data being available by calendar year. Data on gross income of main householder plus spouse are available from the CLG Survey of English Housing and are available by financial year. The ratio between the two is given in the tables as follows.

	Mix-adjusted house price, FTBs, 1997 (£)	*Gross income of main householder plus spouse, 1997-98 (£)*	*Ratio of FTB house price to income*
North East	42,904	15,254	2.8
North West	—	16,814	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	45,173	16,705	2.7
East Midlands	46,304	18,113	2.6
West Midlands	49,842	17,455	2.9
East	61,270	21,425	2.9
London	79,403	23,418	3.4
South East	69,984	23,655	3.0
South West	57,883	19,122	3.0
England	58,391	19,698	3.0

First Time Buyers: Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of first time buyers took out mortgages of 100 per cent. or more of the purchase price of the property in the most recent period for which figures are available. [157489]

Mr. Iain Wright: For 2006, based on figures from the Regulated Mortgage Survey, Communities and Local Government estimate that 8.3 per cent. of UK mortgages to first time buyers (excluding sitting tenants) were for 100 per cent. or more of the purchase price of the property.

Figures quoted by the CML give the number of first time buyers in the UK as 410,800 in 2006.

Using these two figures it is estimated that 34,140 of the first time buyers in 2006 used mortgages that were 100 per cent. or more of the purchase price of their property.

First Time Buyers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of first-time buyers making purchases in the housing market in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [157639]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of mortgages to First Time Buyers (FTBs) in the UK is available on the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/2ML2.xls?ref=4624

For 2006 there were 410,800 FTBs in the UK who used a mortgage to purchase their property.

The CML estimate that around one in five of reported first time buyers were in fact returning to owner-occupation after renting for a period.

Greenbelt: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications decided by the First Secretary of State involving development on the Green Belt have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected since the creation of the Department for Communities and Local Government; and if she will list the location and type of each development. [157663]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have today placed in the Libraries of the House a table listing all planning applications, involving development in the green belt, decided by the Secretary of State since the creation of the Department for Communities and Local Government on 5 May 2006. Of 42 such applications, 16 were allowed and 26 were refused. The table sets out the development type and location.

Hostels: Employment

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to encourage employers to give equal consideration to job applicants with a hostel address. [157410]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme (HCIP) is making hostels places of change. The key outcome will be to increase the number of people who move on positively from a hostel to a job or training and a settled home. The HCIP offers opportunities to access training, education and job opportunities, which will help counter the negative views often held about hostels.

In addition, we are providing £1.6 million funding to the voluntary sector to develop training and employment services for the homeless, which will help those in hostels move into employment and on to independent living.

Hostels: Females

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of residents in hostels are women. [157412]

Mr. Iain Wright: Comprehensive and robust data on the gender of hostel residents are not held centrally.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of hostel places is reserved for women only; and how many *(a)* women-only hostels and *(b)* places in women-only hostels there are. [157413]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected centrally. The Homeless UK project, run by the Resource Information Service, provides information on hostels and supported accommodation for homeless people in England. Their information shows there are 26 direct hostels for women in England (10.5 per cent. of direct access hostels), including three hostels that have some women only accommodation as part of their provision. These hostels provide a total of around 740 bedspaces. In addition there are 90 projects for single women which are second stage, non-emergency supported accommodation with a total of 2,603 bedspaces.

Housing Associations: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether public requests to order disposal apply to empty properties owned by housing associations. [157461]

Mr. Iain Wright: No. Housing associations are not public bodies for the purposes of part 10 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, under which public requests to order disposal can be made.

Housing Associations: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing associations in England receive public funding. [157457]

Mr. Iain Wright: 339 registered social landlords and other bodies received public funding as part of the 2006-08 Affordable Housing Programme via the Housing Corporation. These organisations may have bid as part of partnership or as an individual specialist provider.

As part of their grant allocation process for the Affordable Housing Programme 2006-08, the Housing Corporation published regional allocation statements. These list lead partners and individual specialist providers and grant allocations that they have received for that programme.

The regional allocation statements for the 2006-08 Affordable Housing Programme are available on the Housing Corporation website:

www.housingcorp.gov.uk.

Housing Associations: Property Transfer

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on *(a)* mergers and *(b)* property exchanges between housing associations; and what recent (i) representations she has received and (ii) discussions she has had with (A) the Housing Corporation and (B) the Financial Services Authority on negotiations between the Riverside Group and English Churches Housing Group; and if she will make a statement. [157506]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department has not issued guidance on either of these subjects. The Housing Corporation's key document for mergers and group structures is "Making Groups Work—Good Practice Note 11 November 2006". This guidance explains the Corporation's basic requirements for existing and new group structures. In addition:

"Registration with the Housing Corporation April 2004" sets out the Corporation's Registration Criteria listing specific registration requirements linked to the criteria and provides guidance to organisations seeking to become RSLs; and

"Regulatory Code and guidance August 2005". The "Regulatory Code and guidance" sets out the fundamental obligations of housing associations within the Corporation's regulatory system.

The Housing Corporation's key document for property exchanges between housing associations is "Disposing of Land April 2003" and sets out the criteria for all disposals of land under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1996.

The Secretary of State has received no recent representations on the negotiations between the Riverside Group and English Churches Housing Group nor has she had discussions with the Financial Services Authority or the Housing Corporation.

In the run-up to the merger, the Housing Corporation held four meetings with the Riverside Group and English Churches Housing Group. Since the merger there have been two further meetings between the Corporation and both associations. No meetings were held between the Housing Corporation and the Financial Services Authority.

Housing Data Domain Group

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times her Department's Neighbourhood Statistics: Housing Data Domain Group has met in the last 12 months. [157346]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Neighbourhood Statistics: Housing Data Domain Group last met on 2 October 2006.

Housing Market

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the market for sales of domestic properties was made up of *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedroom, *(c)* three bedroom and *(d)* four bedroom and above dwellings at the latest date for which figures are available. [157622]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected by the Department. However for England we have made the following estimates based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey and HM Land Registry.

Estimated number and proportion of homes sold in 2006 by number of bedrooms

Number of bedrooms	*Proportion sold*	*Properties of all sales (Percentage)*
One	91,187	7.5
Two	367,804	30.1
Three	535,599	43.8
Four or more	228,370	18.7
Total	1,222,960	100.0

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tonnes of carbon are emitted each year by an average home built in accordance with *(a)* current building regulations and *(b)* the level three energy/carbon standard of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [157403]

Mr. Iain Wright: If an average home is assumed to be a semi-detached house with a gas-fired boiler and a floor area of 88.8 metres squared, then the carbon emissions associated with space and hot water heating, ventilation and fixed lighting (not appliances) is estimated to be:

(a) 0.553 tonnes of carbon per annum for a home build to Part L of the current Building Regulations (2006);

(b) 0.415 tonnes of carbon per annum for a Code level 3 home.

The energy/carbon standards set for Code level 3 homes represents a 25 per cent. improvement on current building regulations and will become the minimum regulatory standard for new homes when Part L of the Building Regulations are revised in 2010.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the location is of each of the 550 sites owned by central Government being examined for housing development. [153714]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about all non-operational public sector sites declared surplus to requirements is available via the Register for Surplus Public Sector Land.

The Register is managed by English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency. Government Accounting rules require all Government Departments and their sponsored bodies to place sites declared surplus to requirements on the Register for a minimum of 40 working days, to test whether there is interest from other public sector bodies before disposal and release of information into the public domain and to the private market. However, Departments or their sponsored bodies may remove sites from the Register if they change their assessment and decide that the asset is no longer surplus.

Every three months English Partnerships publishes details from the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land

of all sites that have been registered for 40 days or more. This latest list is available from their website at:

http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/rspsl.htm

The 550 surplus public sector land sites referred to in the Housing Green Paper are spread across England: 37 per cent. of the sites are in London and the South, 36 per cent. in the Midlands and 27 per cent. in the North. Since the publication of the Green Paper a further 200 sites have been identified that are potentially surplus and which may be suitable for housing. The spread is now 40 per cent. in London and the South, 34 per cent. in the Midlands and East of England and 26 per cent. in the North.

English Partnerships are actively working with the Government Departments concerned to assess the potential for all these sites for housing development. In due course details of specific sites that are surplus will appear on the Register in the normal way, but for reasons of commercial or operational sensitivity site details are not being released in advance.

Housing: Elderly

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of the Supporting People regime on the choices open to older residents who wish to retain their residential wardens; [157742]

(2) what consultation has been conducted with older sheltered housing residents on the replacement of residential scheme managers with floating support services; [157744]

(3) what mechanisms there are for older people living in sheltered housing to challenge or complain about support services commissioned under Supporting People; [157745]

(4) how many older residents who moved into sheltered housing on the basis of having access to a residential warden are having this service removed as a result of Supporting People; [157752]

(5) what assessment she has made of the effect of the replacement of residential scheme managers with floating support on the level of security and communal support offered to older residents. [157743]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority. It is for the authority to decide which services to fund in order to deliver good quality, value for money housing support services for vulnerable people in their area. The authority should make these decisions informed by the local needs and priorities identified in their five-year Supporting People strategies.

Moving from accommodation-based or warden models of support to floating support is a decision that can only be taken locally. It is therefore also at that local level that any assessment of their relative value should be made. No central assessment has been made.

In "Independence and Opportunity", the national Supporting People strategy published earlier this year, the Government set out their expectation that both local authorities and Supporting People service providers should

"Ensure that there is effective communication with service users and to explain changes properly to service users."

Any challenges about a consultation process or complaint about services should be made via the relevant authority's complaints procedure or that of the service provider.

It is for commissioners of services locally to understand the factors that influence an older person's decision to take up a specific type of accommodation. This is not measured centrally by the Government.

Housing: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* interim and *(b)* full empty dwelling management orders have been issued; and which local authorities have issued them. [157470]

Mr. Iain Wright: Six interim empty dwelling management orders have been approved by residential property tribunals since the relevant provisions of the Housing Act 2004 were fully implemented in July 2006. The following table provides a monthly breakdown of relevant decisions made by residential property tribunals.

Month of decision	*Type of case*	*Decision*	*Local authority*
February 2007	Application for Interim EDMO	Authorised	South Oxfordshire District Council
February 2007	Application for Interim EDMO	Not authorised	Watford Borough Council
March 2007	Application for Interim EDMO	Authorised	Norwich City Council
May 2007	Application for Interim EDMO	Authorised	Peterborough City Council
July 2007	Application for Interim EDMO	Authorised	London Borough of Hounslow
August 2007	Application for Interim EDMO	Authorised	Wychavon District Council
September 2007	Application for Interim EDMO	Authorised	London Borough of Lewisham

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the third sector on provision of social housing in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [158150]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government, through the Government office West Midlands, has had no direct discussions with the third sector related to provision of affordable housing either in respect of the West Midlands or Coventry.

Direct contact with the third sector is undertaken by the strategic housing authorities as they work in partnership with both the housing corporation and registered social landlords (RSLs) to develop affordable housing for priority groups.

In 2007 the West Midlands Regional Assembly published its second West Midlands Housing Strategy, which was developed through a comprehensive consultation process across the region with a wide variety of stakeholders, including representatives of the third sector.

Coventry city council operates a strategic housing regeneration fund which provides complementary funding to RSLs as they address the needs of vulnerable people to support independent living.

As such schemes are developed appropriate representation from the third sector voluntary and community groups is a fundamental principle.

Examples of the kind of schemes that Coventry, with the third sector, is currently supporting and developing through the Strategic Housing Regeneration Fund are a housing scheme for lone teenage parents, and supported housing for people with learning disabilities.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times she has attended meetings with representatives of *(a)* the Home Builders' Federation and *(b)* the Renewable Energy Association in the last 12 months. [157354]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not held any meetings with representatives of either the Home Builders' Federation or the Renewable Energy Association in the last 12 months.

Housing: Solar Power

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's estimate is of the marginal cost per household to the developer of installing an average sized domestic solar hot water system in new build housing developments. [157350]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The marginal cost per household to the developer will vary greatly depending on factors including the size of development and the size and type of housing in which the system is being installed. While BERR does not maintain data on average figures, evidence from recent projects and other work suggests that the current cost is likely to be between £2,500 and £4,000 per household.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make the stock condition survey assessment model used by her Department accessible to local authorities in the same manner as the HM Treasury model; and if she will make a statement. [157263]

Mr. Iain Wright: The question, asked by the hon. Gentleman is unclear in terms of what model is being referred to. No econometric model of housing stock conditions along the lines of the Treasury model is held by the Department.

The single transfer model (STM) and building cost model (BCM) are accessible to local authorities and used by them to model their assumptions about the value of the stock based on estimates of expenditure on repairs and improvements that need to be carried out over a 30 year period. Local authorities submit these models to the Department as part of either a large scale voluntary transfer or arms length management organisation application respectively.

If the hon. Gentleman is referring to a model of housing stock conditions held by the Department, the condition of the housing stock is monitored through the English House Condition Survey and from social landlords' own estimates provided through their statistical returns. The English House Condition Survey data collection methods, along with the information on how it is compiled to report results, are published along with the data itself on an annual basis.

Housing: Temporary Accommodation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to help those living in hostels who are ready to move on to more permanent settled accommodation. [157407]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department is involved in a range of initiatives to help people move on from hostels. Homeless Link's Move On Plans Protocol (MOPP) will provide local authorities with a better understanding of move on need and allow them to overcome a range of barriers through formal partnerships with the voluntary sector. Broadway's Real Letting project aims to promote improved access to the private rented sector for hostel residents. The Transitional Spaces Project will tackle low turnaround of single people in hostels by providing a 'work first' model to improve access to employment and private rented sector housing.

The key outcome of our £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme will be to increase the number of people who move on positively from a hostel to a job or training and a settled home.

Local Authorities: Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's initiatives to encourage local authorities to support social enterprise; and if she will make a statement. [156939]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise the current and potential role of social enterprises and the wider third sector. One of the key strands in the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government (October 2003) was to encourage councils to work with the third sector. A final report setting out the achievements of local government against the strategy is due to be published later this year.

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative bids in both rounds one and two featured proposals around social enterprise. A feasibility study into a possible evaluation is currently under way.

The comprehensive spending review announced our future public service agreements (PSAs). Through PSA "Delivery Agreement 21: Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities", the subset of six indicators includes measurement of a thriving third sector of which social enterprise is part. Through this indicator we will measure an index of regular formal volunteering and the number of full-time equivalent staff the third sector employs.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter of 16 July 2007 from the hon. Member for Fareham on the strategic gap between Portchester and Fareham. [158714]

Mr. Iain Wright: A reply was to the hon. Member on 10 August 2007.

Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of outstanding mortgages which are sub-prime. [157348]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not made an estimate of the number and proportion of outstanding mortgages which are sub-prime mortgages.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which planning applications the Minister for Planning in her Department has *(a)* called in, *(b)* resolved not to call in, *(c)* approved and *(d)* refused (i) between 15 May 2006 and 27 June 2007 and (ii) since 27 June; [157448]

(2) if she will list the planning applications that she has personally *(a)* called in, *(b)* resolved not to call in, *(c)* approved and *(d)* refused since 27 June. [157473]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have today placed in the Libraries of the House the following tables:

Table (A)—a list of all planning applications that were called in for decision by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government between 15 May 2006 and 27 June 2007.

Table (B)—a list of all planning applications that were considered by the relevant Government office but were decided not to be called in for decision by the Secretary of State between 15 May 2006 and 27 June 2007

Table (C)—a list of all planning applications that were called in for decision by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government since 27 June 2007.

Table (D)—a list of all planning applications that were considered by the relevant Government office but were decided not to be called in for decision by the Secretary of State since 27 June 2007

Table (E)—a list of all planning applications decided by the Secretary of State between 15 May 2006 and 27 June 2007, showing whether the application was approved or refused.

Table (F)—a list of all planning applications decided by the Secretary of State since 27 June 2007, showing whether the application was approved or refused.

Regardless of whether the Secretary of State herself or a planning Minister on her behalf makes a particular decision, all decisions related to calling in and determination of planning applications are made in the name of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Planning: Public Participation

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase local involvement in the planning process; and if she will make a statement. [156948]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the White Paper Planning for a Sustainable Future (CM 7120) and associated documents, we set out a number of proposals for improving the responsiveness and efficiency of the planning system while maintaining or enhancing the delivery of other objectives, including the involvement of communities in planning decisions.

For example, the proposals for nationally significant infrastructure projects would involve the public at every stage: on the development of national policy; on project proposals as they are being developed; and at the inquiry stage.

Our proposed changes to the Local Development Framework system aim to ensure both a more streamlined and tailored process and a more meaningful, engaged level of community involvement.

Community involvement will also be an important component of Planning Performance Agreements—a new way to manage large scale major planning applications.

The Government are also providing a grant of £1.7 million in 2007-08 to Planning Aid. This is for the provision of free and independent professional advice to groups and individuals who need to engage in the planning system but who cannot afford to pay for such advice.

Polytunnels: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given to local planning authorities on planning permission for polytunnels; and if she will make a statement. [157637]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Chief Planner in Communities and Local Government wrote to all local planning authorities on the issue of polytunnels on 25 July 2007. The letter was prompted by concern among several local planning authorities about the planning status of polytunnels following a High Court judgment in December 2006. The purpose of the letter was to clarify the Government's understanding of the situation, to remind local planning authorities of their existing powers on enforcement and of existing planning policy contained in "Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas"

Prisons: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether planning permission is required for the docking and location of a prison ship. [157660]

Mr. Iain Wright: Whether planning permission is required will depend on whether the proposed activity or new use of land would amount to "development". Development is defined in section 55(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as

"the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change of use of buildings or other land."

Planning permission is required for any of these forms of development, unless the section specifically exempts it.

It may be that locating a prison ship where there wasn't one previously would amount to development on the grounds either that it would be a material change of use of the land where it is docked or that it might involve operational development. However, it would be for the local planning authority to determine this based on the particular circumstances of a proposal.

Rough Sleepers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology is used to distinguish migrant rough sleepers from A2 and A8 countries from tourists for the purposes of rough sleeping counts. [157562]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's methodology for local authority rough sleeper street counts, "Guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping (2007 Revision)" has a definition of rough sleeping for the purposes of inclusion on local authority street counts. This is

"People sleeping, or bedded down, in the open air (such as on streets, or in doorways, parks or bus shelters); people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes')."

Only people fitting this definition are included in rough sleeper counts and this would include migrant rough sleepers from A2 and A8 countries. If there is doubt about whether to include an individual, then the local authority will make a decision based on an assessment of the circumstances. This might cover, for example, people sleeping away from campsites who might be homeless but who could be tourists, or people sleeping in transport stations without bedding.

Temporary Accommodation: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been provided by her Department on charging for entry to homeless shelters. [157688]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not issued any guidance on charging for entry to homeless shelters. Charging is a matter for those voluntary organisations which run shelters and hostels for the homeless.

Vehicles: Fires

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deliberate road vehicle fires there were in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [157653]

Mr. Dhanda: There were 40,335 deliberate road vehicle fires in England in 2005 (the latest calendar year for which detailed fire statistics have been published) reported by the fire and rescue service. These incidents included 33,090 deliberate car fires and 7,245 deliberate fires involving other road vehicles.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women who attended a British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) consultation centre were refused an abortion against the criteria in the Abortion Act 1967 in the last 12 months; what guidance his Department has provided to BPAS on the interpretation of section 1 of that Act; and if he will make a statement. [158307]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally. The Department has not issued any guidance to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service on the interpretation of section 1 of the Abortion Act 1967. It is a matter for two doctors to agree, in good faith, whether there are grounds for an abortion under the Act.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the research referred to on page 3 of his Department's document Reforming Emergency Care: First steps to a new approach, published on 25 October 2001. [156796]

Mr. Bradshaw: The research on page 3 of "Reforming Emergency Care" refers to bed occupancy. Our understanding is that there were two particular pieces of work on bed occupancy, which helped to inform policy development at that time.

Firstly, research into the relationship between bed occupancy and the management of elective and emergency pressures was set out in a report of the Emergency Services Action Team in 1997 "Report to the Chief Executive on winter pressures". The report was published under the cover of an Executive Letter (MISC 97/62), which followed the guidance on Access to Secondary Care Services set out in Executive Letter (EL 97/42). A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and both executive letters have also been placed in the Library.

Secondly, work was commissioned on bed occupancy modelling. The work by Bagust, A et al "Dynamics of bed use in accommodating emergency admissions: stochastic simulation model" (1999) refers to similar bed occupancy rates as those cited in "Reforming Emergency Care". A copy has been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many under 14 year olds were treated for alcohol-related health problems in each county in the East of England region in the last 12 months. [156988]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is in the following table.

All diagnoses count of finished consultant episodes for under 14-year-olds with alcohol specific conditions in the eastern region of England, by strategic health authority (SHA) national health service hospitals, 2005-06

	SHA of treatment	Finished consultant episodes (FCE)
Q1	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	31
Q2	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	19
Q3	Essex SHA	30
	Total	80

Notes: All diagnoses count of episodes. These figures represent a count of all FCE where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record. F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol K70 Alcoholic liver disease T51 Toxic effect of alcohol. *FCE* An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year. *Ungrossed Data* Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed). *Source:* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES).

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on treatment and rehabilitation of people outside the criminal justice system who were dependent on alcohol in each of the last 10 years. [157233]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project published in November 2005, found that in 2003-04, a total of £217 million was being invested by the national health service and local authorities in specialist alcohol treatment and 63,000 people received treatment in that year for alcohol-related disorders.

Broomfield Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which individuals and organisations other than civil servants and NHS bodies have *(a)* made written representations to and *(b)* had meetings with Ministers about the Broomfield Hospital private finance initiative scheme in the last four years. [157548]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been six representations from members of the public about the Mid Essex Hospitals Private Finance Initiative (PFI) according to the Department's correspondence database, in addition to two letters from the hon. Member about the Trust's PFI scheme. However, prior to the current database going live in 2005 the previous databases have been archived, therefore the costs of searching these old database would be disproportionate.

The hon. Member has also tabled eight parliamentary questions on the Mid Essex Hospital PFI scheme.

Chorley and South Ribble Hospital

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on progress on the development of the new clinical assessment treatment and support centre at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital. [158659]

Mr. Bradshaw: In terms of the development of Clinical Assessment, Treatment and Support (CATS) services in Chorley as part of the phase 2 independent sector procurement in the North West, the Department is currently working with the national health service to review the specifications of the remaining schemes in phase 2 of the central procurement process. This will ensure that future schemes best meet the needs of the local NHS, and are responsive to the needs of the communities in which they will operate. This exercise is ongoing, and expected to be completed in October. Once this process is complete, and all parties involved in negotiations have been informed of the outcomes, further information will be made available.

Following Central Lancashire primary care trust's (PCT) receipt of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's (LTH) CATS written proposal for South Ribble, LTH and the PCT met on 10 October so that LTH could formally present their proposal to the PCT. A detailed review of this proposal is now being undertaken by the PCT with the outcome expected in mid-November. Formal confirmation to LTH will then follow. What the PCT has seen to date has been very encouraging.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has for further medical and scientific research into the cause or causes of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis; [157527]

(2) what medical research his Department has funded into the cause or causes of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis since 1997. [157528]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Sunderland, North (Bill Etherington) on 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1009W.

Dental Health: Children

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health of the teeth of schoolchildren since Gateway Approval (ref 769800) was issued and the practice of negative permission was discontinued; and if he will make a statement. [156699]

Ann Keen: We are in no doubt that positive consent is required for school dental inspections. The first epidemiology programme since the issue of our guidance on discontinuing negative positive consent will be the five-year-old children's dental health survey to be conducted in England in 2007-08. The North West Dental Public Health Observatory is managing the survey on behalf of the other regional observatories and will assess the impact use of positive consent has on the results. In addition, the oral health unit within the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre at Manchester university, funded by the Department, is undertaking a randomised controlled trial to identify the most effective way of improving consent for national health service epidemiological surveys.

Dental Services: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists doing NHS work were practising in East Lancashire in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [157580]

Ann Keen: Numbers of national health service dentists are available for Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 in Annex E of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006. These PCTs merged to form East Lancashire PCT on 1 October 2006.

The information in this report is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Numbers of NHS dentists at strategic health authority (SHA) and PCT level in England as at 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report. This is the most recent period for which figures are available. Information is available for East Lancashire PCT.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

In both reports, no account is taken of the level of service, if any, that each dentist provides. Both reports have been published by The Information Centre for health and social care.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists were employed under *(a)* general dental service contracts and *(b)* personal dental service contracts in each year since 1997; and how many general dental services and personal dental services dentists there were per 10,000 population (i) for England and (ii) in each strategic health authority area in the most recent period for which figures are available. [156418]

Ann Keen: Numbers of national health service dentists in England as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Table 4 of this report includes information by contract type, including those on general dental services (GDS), personal dental services (PDS) contracts and those who have both a GDS and PDS contract.

This report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Numbers of NHS dentists per 10,000 of population are not published. Statistical convention is to publish NHS dental workforce figures per 100,000 of population and these numbers are available for England at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level as at 31 March 2007 in table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This is the most recent period for which figures are available.

This report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

Dental Services: Pupils

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will reverse his decision on consent for dental screening epidemiological surveys for school children to enable the scheme to operate on a parental opt-out basis; and if he will make a statement. [157254]

Ann Keen: No, the legal advice we have received is that parents/carers should give positive consent where children are not judged competent to give consent to a dental examination. We are optimistic that statistically significant results can be obtained when surveys are conducted on this basis.

Dental Services: Standards

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust area have been required to pay back money to their primary care trust because they could not complete the number of units of dental activity required by their NHS contracts. [157994]

Ann Keen: Providers of national health service dental services have contracts with primary care trusts (PCTs) that set out the agreed annual contract sum and the corresponding level of services to be provided over the course of the year. These annual service levels are expressed mainly in terms of units of dental activity, which measure courses of treatment according to their relative complexity. Dental providers who under-deliver by up to 4 per cent. may carry this forward and make up the activity in the following year. Where a provider has delivered less than 96 per cent. of the agreed annual service level, it is at the PCT's discretion whether the undelivered activity is carried forward to the following year or an appropriate proportion of the annual contract sum is refunded to the PCT. This is a matter for PCTs to decide locally in the light of individual circumstances, and their decisions are not collected or held centrally.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust area have completed (i) 96 per cent. and (ii) 100 per cent. of the number of units of dental activity in their NHS contracts. [158007]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the form requested.

Information on the total units of dental activity delivered in 2006-07 at England, strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) level is contained in "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". This report is available in the Library.

The Dental Services Division (DSD) of the NHS Business Services Authority holds data on dental activity provided under national health service dental contracts, together with information provided by PCTs on the levels of activity commissioned for each contract. However, the DSD does not routinely publish these data. Following a freedom of information request, the DSD expect to make a comparison of the two data items for 2006-07 available by the end of this month. This will provide information by contract broken down by SHA area. This information will be placed in the Library once available.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time in England for orthodontic appointments was for the *(a)* first consultation and *(b)* start of treatment in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the national target times are in each case. [158482]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for national health service orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

Information is available on average hospital waiting times from referral to first out-patient appointment, and from decision to admit to hospital admission, both day case and in-patient. The latest period for which data is available is June 2007. The average waiting time for a first out-patient appointment in this period was 3.6 weeks, and 6.7 weeks for admission.

The NHS operating standard of no more than 13 weeks to first out-patient consultation, and 26 weeks to admission applies to orthodontics delivered in secondary care.

By the end of 2008, the maximum wait for any medical or surgical consultant led treatment, including orthodontic treatment, will be just 18 weeks from initial referral to start of treatment for all patients who want it and for whom it is clinically appropriate.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what stakeholders regularly consulted by his Department are known to take a *(a)* pro-life and *(b)* pro-choice position on abortion-related issues; and if he will make a statement. [158380]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected by the Department.

Drugs: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the problem of counterfeit drugs in the NHS supply chain; and if he will make a statement. [157205]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is concerned about the increase in the number of counterfeit medicines discovered in the United Kingdom regulated supply chain. Since August 2004, counterfeit medicines have been discovered in the UK regulated supply chain and recalled on nine occasions. In addition, counterfeit medicines have been discovered at wholesale-dealer level on five separate occasions.

Although this represents a very small percentage of medicines supplied nationally, MHRA is developing a strategy which will address the risks to patient safety posed by counterfeit medicines and introduce measures to minimise the risk of counterfeit products reaching patients through both the regulated and unregulated supply chains. The strategy will be published later this year.

Avastin

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his policy that Avastin eye injections should be available on the NHS free of charge to *(a)* all patients and *(b)* pensioners who require them; and if he will make a statement. [158724]

Ann Keen: Avastin has not been licensed for use in macular degeneration. However, the law allows the use of either unlicensed medicines or the prescribing of a licensed medicinal product "off-label"—that is outside the terms of its marketing authorisation in order to meet special clinical needs. Such prescriptions are subject to the individual clinician's judgment and are on the personal responsibility of the prescriber, and subject to funding by the primary care trust.

Food: Labelling

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many proposed claims have been submitted to the Food Standards Agency for consideration for authorisation for use on products under the provisions of Article 13 of the Nutrition and Health Claims Made on Food Regulations; if he will give a breakdown of that total by the major categories of the substance to which those claims refer, including *(a)* macronutrients, *(b)* vitamins and minerals, *(c)* botanical ingredients and *(d)* other substances. [157228]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency is currently processing submissions under the Article 13 process and estimates that between 1,500-2,000 claims have been submitted. The exact number, and breakdown by category and substance will only be known when all the submissions have been assessed, and any duplications taken into account.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that the Food Standards Agency assists manufacturers submitting

applications for authorisation of claims under the Nutrition and Health Claims Made on Food Regulations to support those applications through the authorisation process; and what steps the agency intends to take to support small and medium sized businesses involved in this process. [157229]

Dawn Primarolo: Health claims must be substantiated by scientific evidence, and be well understood by the average consumer. The substantiating science is to be assessed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Authorisation of the claims will then be by joint decision of the Commission and member states in the appropriate regulatory committee. The Food Standards Agency will support claims that comply with the necessary criteria and will push to ensure that the requirement in the regulation that the Commission and EFSA make available technical guidance and tools to assist small and medium sized businesses in the preparation and presentation of an application is fulfilled.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when officials of the Food Standards Agency last met representatives of *(a)* manufacturers of specialist herbal food supplements and *(b)* specialist health food retailers to discuss the submission of claims under the nutrition and health claims made on food regulations. [157230]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency last met with representatives of manufacturers of specialist herbal food supplements and specialist health food retailers on 15 August 2007.

General Medical Council: Disciplinary Proceedings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department has issued to ensure that complete independence and objectivity apply to all General Medical Council disciplinary hearings; and if he will make a statement. [157773]

Mr. Bradshaw: No guidelines have been issued by the Department in relation to the independence and objectivity of General Medical Council (GMC) fitness to practise hearings.

In 2004, the GMC introduced a package of reforms to its fitness to practise procedures that included changes to the adjudication process.

Key aspects of the changes included:

the separation of functions between investigation and adjudication;

GMC Council members no longer have any role in fitness to practise casework and decision-making; and

fitness to practise panels are populated by a pool of medical and lay panellists. All panellists are appointed against competencies and the recruitment and appointment process is overseen by independent assessors from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

All panellists must receive training on the GMC's fitness to practice procedures before they are eligible to sit on a panel. The GMC introduced Indicative Sanctions Guidance in 2001. This provides guidance to panellists on the factors that they should consider in determining the appropriate sanction in each case. The medical and lay panellists appointed to sit on the panels exercise their own judgments in making decisions, but must take into consideration the standards of good practice the GMC has established which have been drawn up after wide consultation and which reflect what society expects of doctors.

General Practitioners: Rents

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 285W, on general practitioners: rents, who is responsible for monitoring compliance with Direction 48. [158738]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts have responsibility for the administration and monitoring of the national health service (General Medical Services—Premises Costs) (England) Directions 2004, including Direction 48.

Health Professions: Manpower

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed in each London borough in each year since 1997. [157634]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information requested is not held in the format requested. Data are not collected at borough or primary care trust (PCT) level, as doctors and nurses work in both national health service trusts and PCTs, and some NHS trusts serve across borders.

However, the following table shows the amount of doctors and nurses employed in London since 1997 at strategic health authority (SHA) level.

NHS doctors and qualified nurses in the London strategic health authority area, 1997 to 2006

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All doctors[2, 3]	17,107	17,374	17,846	18,557	19,048	19,872	21,013	22,901	24,034	24,587
HCHS medical and dental staff[2]	12,575	12,859	13,350	14,009	14,503	15,263	16,134	17,827	18,814	19,356
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[3]	4,532	4,515	4,496	4,548	4,545	4,609	4,879	5,074	5,220	5,231
All qualified nurses	51,980	52,700	54,302	54,600	58,000	60,638	66,185	68,239	69,102	67,506
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[3]	49,416	49,868	51,522	51,773	55,259	57,747	63,364	65,333	66,240	64,608

NHS doctors and qualified nurses in the London strategic health authority area, 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Practice nurses	2,564	2,832	2,780	2,827	2,741	2,891	2,821	2,906	2,862	2,898

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non medical census. Although this represents less than 1 per cent. of total records, it should be taken into consideration when making historical comparisons.
[2] Excludes medical Hospital Practitioners and medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part-time in hospitals.
[3] GP retainers were first collected in 1999 and have been omitted for comparability purposes.

Note:
Data as at 30 September each year (except GP and practice nurse data as at 1 October 1996-1999)

Source:
The Information Centre: General and Personal Medical Services; Medical and Dental Workforce Census; Non-medical Workforce Census.

Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has undertaken into the sufficiency of link worker services connecting health provision and ethnic minority communities in those areas with high ethnic minority populations; and if he will make a statement. [156085]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Primary care trusts are receiving £16 million per annum within their baseline funding for the recruitment nationally of 500 community development workers (CDWs) for black and minority ethnic (BME) mental health. CDWs are a vital component of our "Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care" action plan, published in January 2005. A CDW's role is to help build links between local mental health services and their BME communities, so that they can collaborate more closely in the planning and provision of care. The effectiveness of the CDW workforce in meeting its objectives will be evaluated in due course. We do not hold information centrally about the numbers or sufficiency of other local link workers.

Health Services: Pregnancy

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the case for full implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline of the assessment and treatment of people with fertility problems if there is a move towards introducing single embryo transfer for selected patients. [157094]

Dawn Primarolo: The clinical guideline published in 2004 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommended up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) where appropriate. The then Secretary of State made it clear that he expected primary care trusts (PCTs) to move over time to three cycles as recommended. We are aware that most PCTs are providing at least one cycle of IVF and we are working with the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help PCTs share best practice in the provision of fertility services and move to the NICE recommendations. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority is considering the outcome of its public consultation on multiple births after IVF.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* number of beds and *(b)* bed category rate was in the NHS (i) in total and (ii) broken down by bed occupancy in (A) England and (B) each strategic health authority area in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07. [156801]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Hospital Beds: Paediatrics

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average bed occupancy rate was for paediatric units at district general hospitals in England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158208]

Ann Keen: The data are provided in the following table.

Average occupancy rate (occupied/available beds x 100 per cent.) of neonate and paediatric beds for England during 2006-07 for intensive care beds, general and acute beds, and for intensive care and general and acute beds combined

	Occupancy rates (Percentage)
Neonate and paediatrics	
Intensive care beds	74.18
General and acute beds	62.35
Intensive care and general and acute beds combined	64.60

Hospitals: Admissions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age for hospital admissions was in England for the last year for which figures are available. [157011]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average mean age of patients on admission in national health service hospitals in England for 2005-06 was 47.3 years.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the policy of deep cleaning NHS wards, as stated in his Department's press release of 25 September 2007, entitled Johnson crackdown on cleanliness and infections; what methodology was used to estimate the cost of deep cleaning at £50 million; which organisations will undertake the evaluation of the first programme of deep cleaning, and at what cost to the public purse; whether the deep cleaning of NHS wards will be mandatory for all NHS organisations which operate wards; when he expects the deep cleaning of NHS wards to happen; and if he will make a statement. [156805]

Ann Keen: The Government consider that high standards of cleanliness should be provided by the national health service.

A higher score on the annual Patient Environment Action Team assessments is significantly correlated with lower rates of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile*, although this is unlikely to be a direct relationship. Links between infection and cleanliness vary according to the specific micro-organism involved, and high standards of hygiene are likely to have a greater effect on *Clostridium difficile* rates, for instance, than on MRSA.

Even for those micro-organisms where the environment has less impact, it is still important that hospitals are kept clean. Patients consistently rate cleanliness as one of their highest priorities for the NHS.

The figure of £50 million is an indicative amount. The final amount will depend on the needs of each hospital, which will inevitably vary. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) will work with their primary care trusts to commission deep cleaning at a locally-agreed cost, and to monitor total spend in their areas. Performance management and evaluation will also be carried out locally.

The deep cleaning programme is an important part of our work in relation to health care associated infections, and will therefore be targeted towards acute trusts. However, all hospitals should be clean, and SHAs have the discretion to include other hospitals, including mental health and learning disability units.

Deep cleaning is time consuming and can be disruptive. Dependent on the approach taken, it may be necessary to close wards or bays. For most trusts, this will take months, rather than weeks. We expect that the majority of activity will be complete by year-end.

Hospitals: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken in the last two years on the *(a)* minimum size and *(b)* staffing needs of (i) an accident and emergency unit and (ii) a maternity unit in order to meet the August 2009 requirements of the European Working Time Directive; what cost to the public purse he expects to arise from meeting those requirements; and if he will make a statement. [157005]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local national health service trusts are responsible for implementing the European Working Time Directive (WTD) as part of their health and safety obligations. Strategic health authorities and the Department offer support with WTD planning. The Department is sponsoring NHS National Workforce Projects (NWPs) to support local implementation of WTD 2009. NHS NWPs has commissioned a range of pilots including cooperative solutions, team working, handover and escalation and 24:7 working (which include accident and emergency and maternity units). The pilots take in a wide variety of organisations to look at solutions which are transferable across the NHS. There is ongoing evaluation of the pilots to share lessons learned as early as possible.

Hospitals: Personnel

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance there is for NHS staff to relocate to work in alternative healthcare facilities in the event of the closure or downgrading of district hospitals. [157020]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Assistance with expenses incurred as a result of any relocation arising from a reconfiguration proposal are determined locally in consultation with staff representatives.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccinations

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department is taking steps to ensure that young women who left school in summer 2007 before the human papilloma virus vaccination programme was introduced have access to this vaccination on the NHS; [157998]

(2) what decision has been made by his Department regarding a catch-up campaign for the human papilloma virus vaccine for females aged between 12 to 26 years. [158008]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has agreed, in principle, to accept Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice that human papilloma virus vaccines should be introduced routinely for girls aged around 12 to 13 years, subject to independent peer review of the cost-benefit analysis.

A detailed analysis is being carried out by the JCVI regarding the cost-benefit analysis, and this work is being externally peer reviewed to ensure its robustness. The Department will consider the issue when the advice from JCVI is available.

Infant Foods

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Department has taken to restrict the promotion of breast milk substitutes. [157223]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is working with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to look at ways of further restricting the promotion of breast milk substitutes within the United Kingdom regulations stemming from the European Union directive on infant and follow-on formula. The draft regulations issued for public consultation on 2 July ended on 28 September. Comments received from the stakeholders are being collated and evaluated by the FSA. Stakeholders' comments will then be published together with the FSA's responses. The FSA also intends to consult in the near future on the accompanying draft guidance notes. The directive requires that regulations come into force on 1 January 2008.

Internet: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the NHS Choices website has been since its establishment. [158749]

Mr. Bradshaw: To date, £7.9 million has been spent on the design, development and operation of the website.

Maternity Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many roadside births have taken place *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [157396]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Medical Treatments: Arthritis

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action he is taking to ensure that the full range of biologics is available to patients with rheumatoid arthritis. [158145]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* All primary care trusts in England and Wales are obliged to fund, from general allocations, drug therapies for those patients with rheumatoid arthritis who meet the clinical guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

MRSA: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA were reported in *(a)* each London hospital and *(b)* each London primary care trust in each of the last five years. [157375]

Ann Keen: The information is not available as requested. The mandatory surveillance of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) in England applies to national health service acute trusts only. Data on primary care trusts are not compiled.

Since April 2001, trusts in England have reported all cases of MRSA bacteraemias (bloodstream infections), to the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Data covering the period April 2002 to March 2007 were published on 25 July 2007. The data for those trusts in London are summarised in the following table.

MRSA bacteraemias: London (that is within London strategic health authority: April 2002 to March 2007)

April to March each year.	*Number of bacteraemias*
2002-03	1,707
2003-04	1,682
2004-05	1,392
2005-06	1,320
2006-07	1,205

Source:
HPA

NHS: Ancillary Staff

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* caretakers, *(b)* hospital porters and *(c)* cleaners were employed by each London Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997. [157633]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held in the format requested. However, the following table shows the amount of non-medical staff employed in London since 1997 at strategic health authority (SHA) level.

NHS hospital and community health services: maintenance and works staff and support workers in the hotel, property and estates area of work in the London strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

	Headcount
1997	6,266
1998	5,494
1999	5,468
2000	5,064
2001	5,124
2002	5,189
2003	5,318
2004	5,631
2005	5,768
2006	4,827

Notes:
1. These figures are for staff directly employed by the NHS only. The Non-Medical Workforce Census does not cover contracted services staff. Maintenance and works and support staff in hotel, property and estates include caretakers/handypersons, gardeners and grounds, maintenance staff, catering staff and cleaning staff. There is no way to separately identify any of these occupations from the census data.
2. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures. This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends overtime.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the gateway reviews of the NHS IT programme. [155866]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have no current plans to do so. The Gateway review reports are intended to help and inform the management of the programme and the Department's own decisions. They are not intended for publication.

More generally, the Government believe that the prospect of disclosure of any Gateway review would restrain the frankness and candour with which participants engage in the Gateway process, and that this in turn would undermine its effectiveness and the quality of recommendations arising. Gateway reviews perform an important role in ensuring that public authorities are using their resources in an efficient and effective way and there is therefore a strong and vital public interest in maintaining their efficacy.

NHS: Leave

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rules or guidelines his Department has in place governing the length of time that NHS employees are allowed to take paid leave on *(a)* compassionate and *(b)* other grounds; what the overall maximum period is for which paid leave will be given; and if he will make a statement. [157737]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The position on paid leave is outlined in the terms and conditions for particular staff groups and depends on time served and individual circumstances.

For medical staff the "National Health Service Hospital Medical and Dental Staff and Doctors in Public Health Medicine and the Community Health Service (England and Wales)", and the "Terms and Conditions of Service for Consultants (England) 2003" have been placed in the Library and are also available at:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-348.cfm

For non-medical staff the "Agenda for Change NHS Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook", has been placed in the Library and also available at:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-198.cfm

NHS: Reorganisation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy that all consultations on NHS service reconfiguration will contain as one option the retention of services in their existing configuration; [157006]

(2) what research his Department has conducted into the impact of relocation or closure of hospital services on patient access to healthcare facilities in areas with disproportionately high numbers of elderly residents; [157015]

(3) whether his Department has undertaken an assessment of the impact on local economies of closing district general hospitals. [157021]

Ann Keen: The Department of Health has not undertaken specific research into the relocation of local health care services.

Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

The recently published interim report on the NHS Next Stage Review makes it clear that no major service change should happen except on the basis of need and sound clinical evidence.

NHS: Temporary Employment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of staffing costs were spent on agency staff in each London primary care trust in each of the last five years. [157376]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Trust code	*Trust name*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Percentage 2005-06*
5A4	Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT)	9.23	13.51	11.61	11.84	10.99
5A5	Kingston PCT	6.05	8.35	8.48	5.62	5.23
5A6	Teddington, Twickenham and Hamptons PCT	8.65	—	—	—	—
5A7	Bromley PCT	3.94	5.26	5.80	4.89	3.80
5A8	Greenwich PCT	2.83	2.91	9.12	6.39	6.39
5A9	Barnet PCT	6.41	8.73	9.11	8.72	7.67
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	1.64	4.26	7.89	7.19	3.05
5AX	Bexley PCT	4.37	3.57	—	—	—
5C1	Enfield PCT	8.50	10.38	10.16	9.33	6.25
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	6.67	7.89	10.33	8.42	8.86
5C3	City and Hackney PCT	14.20	14.92	12.73	12.45	14.48
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	9.71	9.30	10.30	9.82	8.60
5C5	Newham PCT	8.06	9.18	8.20	7.95	6.05
5C6	Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	8.40	16.13	—	—	—
5C8	Redbridge PCT	5.84	7.25	—	—	—
5C9	Haringey PCT	—	10.36	10.90	13.89	7.70
5A4	Havering PCT	—	9.23	13.51	11.61	11.84
5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	—	15.55	—	—	—
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	—	7.65	13.74	7.54	3.40
5HX	Ealing PCT	—	11.49	13.74	11.52	10.54
5HY	Hounslow PCT	—	12.40	9.71	7.18	7.51
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	—	20.23	15.52	16.62	10.88
5K6	Harrow PCT	—	3.47	2.25	2.64	2.14
5K7	Camden PCT	—	15.10	15.65	16.42	10.39
5K8	Islington PCT	—	21.23	14.23	15.37	8.89
5K9	Croydon PCT	—	11.14	11.41	9.62	5.33
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	—	16.54	32.77	11.88	7.90
5LC	Westminster PCT	—	17.60	17.38	6.59	5.05
5LD	Lambeth PCT	—	18.19	14.60	11.24	9.90
5LE	Southwark PCT	—	6.94	7.20	9.75	8.26
5LF	Lewisham PCT	—	6.12	6.10	6.59	6.22
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	—	9.80	8.90	7.07	4.57
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	11.75	10.79	11.81	7.03
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	—	5.20	6.40	7.69	4.92
5NA	Redbridge PCT	—	—	12.99	12.49	11.31

Trust code	Trust name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Percentage 2005-06
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	—	—	14.37	11.66	10.59
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	—	—	3.73	4.65	0.00

Source:
PCT financial returns 2001-02 to 2005-06

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on agency staff by each NHS trust in London in each of the last five years. [157377]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Trust type	Code	Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Trust	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	13,604,955	15,461,613	10,954,848	10,407,000	8,157,000
Trust	RAN	The Royal Nat Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	2,496,228	1,840,908	3,013,198	3,066,000	1,924,000
Trust	RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	4,800,349	5,741,399	5,204,896	4,240,000	3,450,000
Trust	RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	3,833,204	5,168,414	3,923,783	2,834,000	2,377,000
Trust	RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	9,000,287	13,903,994	15,382,515	12,699,000	11,883,000
Trust	RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	7,224,006	7,525,363	8,161,046	4,410,000	4,146,000
Trust	RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	5,832,333	4,509,789	3,555,379	3,966,000	3,239,500
Trust	RDA	Parkside NHS Trust	7,527,191	—	—	—	—
Trust	RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS Trust	13,264,970	16,631,937	13,438,178	14,030,000	11,470,000
Trust	RFW	West Middlesex University NHS Trust	4,218,483	5,889,792	4,371,485	2,978,000	2,090,000
Trust	RFX	Hounslow and Spelthorne Community and Mental Health Trust	5,219,677	—	—	—	—
Trust	RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	5,641,266	5,367,156	3,945,481	1,743,000	1,462,000
Trust	RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	9,031,691	8,587,813	9,563,113	8,605,000	5,250,000
Trust	RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	12,706,456	15,363,589	13,773,048	14,604,000	12,676,000
Trust	RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	1,553,360	1,551,625	1,701,035	1,924,000	1,859,000
Trust	RHB	Camden and Islington Community Health NHS Trust	6,533,615	—	—	—	—
Trust	RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	30,364,312	29,705,544	25,171,131	25,941,000	24,589,000
Trust	RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	5,272,527	4,739,987	5,552,729	6,121,000	4,079,000
Trust	RJ5	St. Mary's NHS Trust	16,097,781	18,644,502	16,969,989	16,175,000	12,124,000
Trust	RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	6,995,413	4,284,696	6,198,692	7,080,000	5,740,000
Trust	RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	12,005,192	13,371,348	13,760,315	13,288,000	9,273,000
Trust	FUZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	15,091,926	16,277,799	10,116,582	8,829,000	7,344,000
Trust	RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	6,669,932	8,534,065	7,395,383	6,081,000	4,883,000
Trust	RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	6,011,659	8,755,691	10,433,356	6,877,000	6,365,000
Trust	RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	8,515,572	10,936,321	9,714,522	6,654,000	4,756,000
Trust	RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	16,705,717	17,756,830	13,930,839	12,623,000	10,798,000
Trust	RNK	Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust	428,145	483,647	521,980	488,000	747,000
Trust	RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	6,981,457	7,123,977	7,072,106	6,026,000	4,500,000
Trust	RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust	2,097,130	2,409,575	2,916,818	3,055,000	3,387,000
Trust	RPG	Oxleas NHS Trust	4,463,392	4,583,905	4,845,467	3,835,000	3,493,000
Trust	RPY	The Royal Marsden NHS Trust	6,016,314	6,486,700	7,277,656	7,147,000	4,390,000
Trust	RQK	Harrow and Hillingdon Healthcare NHS Trust	2,412,876	—	—	—	—
Trust	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare Trust	5,924,034	15,393,752	5,159,421	6,408,000	5,846,000
Trust	RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	17,314,250	23,267,019	26,489,845	17,698,000	11,668,000
Trust	RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust	8,263,101	9,336,033	9,704,632	10,076,000	10,074,000
Trust	RQY	South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust	10,172,640	10,515,594	17,324,397	22,301,000	13,722,000
Trust	RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	7,226,801	6,192,881	6,948,524	7,450,000	6,130,000
Trust	RRQ	Camden and Islington Mental Health NHS Trust	9,411,238	—	—	—	—
Trust	RRU	London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,230,256	1,634,950	2,395,090	2,201,000	2,188,000

Trust type	Code	Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Trust	RRV	University College London Hospital NHS Trust	20,466,581	20,673,155	17,399,310	13,752,000	12,631,000
Trust	RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	4,516,185	3,816,947	3,347,366	2,481,000	2,405,000
Trust	RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	6,813,917	8,957,955	8,546,822	8,306,000	8,234,000
Trust	RV4	Community Health South London NHS Trust	6,604,586	—	—	—	—
Trust	RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	21,139,705	20,345,552	17,689,185	19,051,000	19,907,000
Trust	RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	9,784,744	11,674,257	11,890,747	9,541,000	7,245,000
Trust	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	9,088,160	10,086,102	11,193,797	7,763,000	5,671,000
Trust	RVM	South West London Community NHS Trust	4,762,754	—	—	—	—
Trust	RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	12,725,023	6,623,636	4,048,599	3,085,000	3,263,000
Trust	RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	4,571,296	5,409,207	6,599,827	7,122,000	5,961,000
Trust	TAP	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	—	10,007,932	7,806,406	3,787,000	4,373,000
PCT	5A4	Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT)	1,784,029	3,306,431	3,013,630	3,702,000	3,672,000
PCT	5A5	Kingston PCT	969,000	1,476,730	1,615,253	1,216,000	1,241,000
PCT	5A6	Teddington, Twickenham and Hamptons PCT	487,529	—	—	—	—
PCT	5A7	Bromley PCT	911,818	1,350,841	1,657,347	1,669,000	1,314,000
PCT	5A8	Greenwich PCT	420,566	489,243	1,789,062	1,515,000	1,739,000
PCT	5A9	Barnet PCT	1,726,987	2,634,645	2,918,939	3,353,000	3,036,000
PCT	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	208,313	862,804	2,681,069	2,549,000	1,137,000
PCT	SAX	Bexley PCT	432,635	420,119	—	—	—
PCT	SCI	Enfield PCT	1,410,111	2,324,698	2,613,936	2,880,000	1,996,000
PCT	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	713,693	1,125,298	1,806,601	1,729,000	1,911,000
PCT	5C3	City and Hackney PCT	2,526,148	3,031,913	2,923,475	3,392,000	4,602,000
PCT	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	3,384,549	3,328,811	4,157,185	4,765,000	4,719,000
PCT	5C5	Newham PCT	2,305,881	2,995,782	2,957,327	3,482,000	2,704,000
PCT	5C6	Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	571,277	1,592,907	—	—	—
PCT	5C8	Redbridge PCT	450,957	672,965	—	—	—
PCT	5C9	Haringey PCT	2,059,094	2,657,939	3,532,802	2,479,000	3,703,000
PCT	5NA	Redbridge PCT	—	—	2,314,926	2,551,000	2,404,000
PCT	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	—	—	2,653,207	2,623,000	2,595,000
PCT	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	—	—	577,999	899,000	557,000
PCT	5A4	Havering PCT	1,784,029	3,306,431	3,013,630	3,702,000	3,672,000
PCT	5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	—	1,747,623	—	—	—
PCT	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	—	1,829,625	3,297,599	1,906,000	811,000
PCT	5HX	Ealing PCT	—	3,909,123	4,398,000	4,152,000	4,030,000
PCT	5HY	Hounslow PCT	—	2,039,203	1,714,000	1,476,000	1,603,000
PCT	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	—	5,826,724	4,805,787	6,645,000	4,684,000
PCT	5K6	Harrow PCT	—	794,352	435,540	542,000	470,000
PCT	5K7	Camden PCT	—	5,287,134	5,436,895	7,652,000	5,187,000
PCT	5K8	Islington PCT	—	7,364,405	3,785,270	4,823,000	3,243,000
PCT	5K9	Croydon PCT	—	2,859,539	3,108,035	2,949,000	1,693,000
PCT	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	—	5,087,637	10,022,128	3,934,000	2,749,000
PCT	5LC	Westminster PCT	—	6,164,170	5,169,353	2,403,000	1,804,000
PCT	5LD	Lambeth PCT	—	4,445,170	3,898,639	3,795,000	3,646,000
PCT	5LE	Southwark PCT	—	1,595,273	2,025,498	3,107,000	2,953,000
PCT	5LF	Lewisham PCT	—	1,906,539	2,097,786	2,620,000	2,689,000
PCT	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	—	4,185,528	3,934,482	3,688,000	2,424,000
PCT	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	1,226,814	1,270,905	1,838,000	1,186,000
PCT	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	—	1,827,001	2,517,461	3,578,000	2,456,000

Source:
Trust financial returns 2001-02—2005-06
Foundation trust annual reports (Monitor) 2004-05 and 2005-06
PCT financial returns 2001-02 -2005-06

Paramedical Staff: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* paramedics and *(b)* paramedics in training there are in Lancashire; and how many there were in each year since 2000. [157584]

Ann Keen: Information on the numbers of paramedics in training is not collected centrally. Numbers of paramedics in the North West Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust and predecessor organisations is set out in the following table.

	Number
2000	945
2001	966
2002	902
2003	1,037
2004	1,037
2005	1,181
2006	1,175

Note:
In July 2006, Mersey Ambulance Service, Cumbria Ambulance Service, Greater Manchester Ambulance Service and Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trusts merged to form North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many linear accelerators he expects to be available to the NHS in each year of the next 10 years. [156782]

Ann Keen: The Department does not routinely collect these data, the acquisition of resources is a matter for local determination based on local needs. However when final deliveries are completed, as part of the recent central procurement, there will be approximately 250 linear accelerators (linacs) installed in national health service trusts in England.

The National Radiotherapy Advisory Group report published in May 2007 has recommended that more linacs will be needed over the next 10 years. The recommendations in this report are being considered as part of the development of the cancer reform strategy.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all radiotherapy centres have plans in place to deliver the 4-tier skills mix model. [156783]

Ann Keen: All trusts with radiotherapy centres are being encouraged to review their skill mix following the recommendations made by the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group (NRAG) produced in May 2007, however radiotherapy staffing profiles need to be based on local needs and priorities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radiotherapy departments have more than eight linear accelerators. [156784]

Ann Keen: Three[1] radiotherapy departments in England have more than eight linear accelerators on site. These are Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. However, we do not hold information on whether all these machines are in routine clinical use. Some of these machines may be used for clinical research, training purposes or used as back up when another machine requires maintenance.

[1] *Source:*
Health Protection Agency -linear accelerator installed base 2007

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of fractions per linear accelerator was in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by radiotherapy facility. [156785]

Ann Keen: In 2005, a radiotherapy equipment survey was carried out by the National Cancer Services Analysis Team. Results from this survey were included in the report of the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group that was published in May 2007.

As set out in this report 39 out of 48 Trusts with radiotherapy facilities in England responded to the survey. The median radiotherapy centre gave 7,400 fractions per linac and 16 out of the 39 centres delivered more than 8,000 fractions per linac on average. A chart showing the range of productivity across the 39 radiotherapy facilities in England that responded to the survey has been placed in Library.

The radiotherapy equipment survey has recently been repeated and the updated information is currently being validated. A more up-to-date position should therefore be available by the end of October 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many linear accelerators were available to the NHS in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what average number of fractions per annum was delivered by each. [156786]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data in the format requested, however, the following information might be helpful.

The National Radiotherapy Advisory Group Report published in May 2007 indicated that there were 215 linear accelerators (linacs) in England in August 2006 and that the median radiotherapy centre gave 7,400 fractions per linac averaged across the centre.

From the 39 centres out of 48 that responded to a radiotherapy equipment survey in 2004-05 undertaken by the National Cancer Services Analysis team, the annual average fractions per linear accelerator was 7,522. This included all linacs which were recorded as having been in routine clinical use for the whole year and excluded Cobalt units, machines used for backup, and two machines with very low activity levels less than 100 courses.

The radiotherapy equipment survey has been repeated and results should be available shortly.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the number of hybrid virtual environments on radiotherapy training sites. [156787]

Ann Keen: In May 2007 we announced £5 million of capital funding to support the introduction of virtual skills training facilities to national health service trusts and universities where therapeutic radiography training is undertaken. The National Cancer Director wrote to trusts and universities supporting radiotherapy training on 6 October 2007 inviting them to apply for funding to allow them to procure the facilities.

Waiting Lists: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were for *(a)* general surgery, *(b)* ear, nose and throat surgery, *(c)* neurosurgery, *(d)* geriatric medicine and *(e)* general medicine in each London primary care trust in each of the last five years. [157390]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

TREASURY

Cancer: North East Region

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people *(a)* were diagnosed with and *(b)* died from (i) cancer and (ii) breast cancer in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside and (C) the North East in each year since 1997. [156763]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have (a) been diagnosed with and (b) died from (i) cancer and (ii) breast cancer in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside and (C) the North East in each year since 1997. (156763)

The latest available figures for (a) newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2004 (England and Wales). Numbers of cases of (i) all cancers and (ii) breast cancer, for the years 1997 to 2004 for (A) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (B) South Tyneside County District and (C) North East Government Office Region are given in Table 1.

The latest available figures for (b) deaths are for the year 2006. Numbers of deaths from (i) all cancers and (ii) breast cancer, for the years 1997 to 2006 for (A) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (B) South Tyneside County District and (C) North East Government Office Region are given in Table 2.

Table 1. registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancers[1] and breast cancer[2]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district and the north east government office region, 1997-2004

	Jarrow		South Tyneside		North east	
	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]
1997	452	59	806	102	12,350	1,550
1998	441	43	838	95	12,902	1,691
1999	464	68	856	107	13,071	1,679
2000	454	60	886	119	13,087	1,673
2001	440	53	821	101	13,426	1,731
2002	469	61	860	103	13,558	1,713
2003	454	71	870	130	13,585	1,907
2004	434	58	866	117	13,213	1,974

[1] All cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer: I CD-10 COO-C97 excluding C44.
[2] Breast cancer is defined as code C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2. number of deaths where cancer[1], or breast cancer[2], was the underlying cause of death: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region, 1997-2006[3]

	Jarrow		South Tyneside		North east	
	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]
1997	282	15	531	42	7776	610
1998	280	17	549	39	7901	571
1999	282	20	526	32	7530	545
2000	272	19	522	31	7469	518
2001	278	16	542	34	7811	557
2002	281	21	517	34	7695	515
2003	264	14	526	29	7650	477
2004	263	13	527	26	7629	524
2005	276	13	534	25	7648	553
2006	298	22	485	36	7667	532

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes COO-C97 for subsequent years. The introduction of ICD-10 means that the numbers of deaths from cancer before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 174-175 for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50 for subsequent years. The introduction of ICD-10 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will list all accounts directions issued by his Department between 2001-02 and 2005-06; [156004]

(2) what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial year *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156675]

Andy Burnham: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 and the Government Trading Fund Act 1973, the Treasury issues accounts directions to Departments, pensions schemes, agencies and trading funds. It also issues directions to a number of other bodies that prepare accounts under different legislation.

Details of the directions issued by the Treasury under these Acts are detailed in a Dear Accounting Officer (DAO) letter sent to all bodies, the latest such version of which is available on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Details of the Departments, pensions schemes, agencies and trading funds issued an accounts direction by the Treasury for the years 2001-02 through to 2006-07 have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Also included are details of those bodies that prepare accounts under legislation other than the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 or the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 that hold an extant direction issued by the Treasury. This list also details a few bodies that prepare their accounts under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 that were omitted from the latest DAO.

Departments: Rents

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what income *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Government receive from rental property; and if he will make a statement. [156916]

Angela Eagle: Central Government received income from rental property of £261 million in 2006-07. The Treasury received no income from rental property.

Minimum Wage: Civil Servants

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees employed by the Government and Government agencies are in receipt of no more than the minimum wage; and if he will list the titles of their posts. [158158]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally but it is estimated that for staff in the civil service and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) the total number, as at September 2007, on the minimum wage is less than 1,000.

Revenue and Customs: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* members of the armed services or their families visited the Enquiry Centre at Regent House, Darlington in each year since 2003-04; and how many of these visits were in connection with tax credits. [157444]

Jane Kennedy: The total number of callers visiting the Darlington Enquiry Centre from 2003-04 to 2006-07 including those with tax credit enquiries were:

	Callers	*Tax Credit Enquiry*
2003-04	14,120	4,927
2004-05	9,371	2,523
2005-06	10,116	2,261
2006-07	10,920	2,062

HMRC does not have the information to identify how many of those callers were members of the armed forces.

Second Homes: Highlands of Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he took into account the likely effect on demand for second homes in the Highlands in formulating his proposals to reduce the rate of capital gains tax; [158616]

(2) whether his Department has made an assessment of the factors affecting demand for second homes in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [158617]

Jane Kennedy: The Government take a range of factors into consideration when formulating tax policy, and keeps all aspects of policy under review.

VAT: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. member for North-East Bedfordshire of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2243W, on VAT: Home Information Packs, what estimate his Department has made of the total gross revenue from VAT on *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* energy performance certificates in the first full year of operation if they are introduced across the whole housing market. [157326]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimates have been made.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written statement of the Financial Secretary of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 62WS, on tax credit administration, what estimate he has made of the amount of overpaid tax credits which will be written off as a consequence of the procedural error described in the written statement. [157088]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* An estimate for the amount written off in the accounts as a result of the procedural error is not yet available. It will be included in HMRC's 2007-08 accounts which will be published next year.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 17 October 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which beneficiaries of the Aggregates Levy Sustainable Fund were based in Stroud constituency in each year since the inception of the levy. [158549]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund database captures information at county-level and has details of beneficiaries from April 2004 onwards. Beneficiaries that have run projects in Gloucestershire, since April 2004, are shown in the following list.

Gloucestershire—April 2004 onwards

Bowmoor Sailing Club
British Waterways
Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre
Cotswold Canal Trust
Cotswold Water Park Society
Cotswold AONB Partnership
Drybrook Parish council
Fairford Playing Field Ltd
Fairford Town council
Gloucester city council
Gloucestershire county council
Gloucestershire Geoconservation Trust
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Huntsmans Quarries Ltd
Kemerton Conservation Trust
MCTI Partnership
Oxford Archaeology
Pool Keynes Village Hall Committee
RSPB
Staunton Parish council
Staunton Meend Common
Stroud Valleys Project
South Gloucestershire council
Somerford Keynes Parish council
South Cerney Playgroup
The National Trust
The Jurassic Hill Geopark
University of Gloucester

Alcoholic Drinks: EU Action

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action he is taking to ensure the term cider brandy is retained and not renamed cider spirit in the draft EU regulations to replace the present EU Regulation 1576/89; and if he will make a statement. [158721]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: DEFRA is aware that the term "cider brandy" is absent from the draft of the European Union regulation on spirit drinks. We are pressing the European Commission to find a pragmatic solution to this issue.

Animal Welfare: Shipping

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many ships departing from UK ports since 1 January 2007 carrying live animals have been subject to inspection for animal welfare purposes; and what percentage of sailings this constitutes. [157789]

Jonathan Shaw: Since January 2007, two specialist livestock vessels have operated out of Dover. These vessels have also had a limited number of sailings from Sheerness and Ipswich port. Animal Health carry out welfare inspections on a percentage of all the animal transport vehicles travelling on these vessels.

Combined figures for the vessels show that, of 104 sailings, 97 included physical and documentary checks on a number of the vehicles onboard. This means that over 93 per cent. of the sailings had welfare checks carried out on their vehicles.

Cattle: Transport

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle passport applications he expects to be received late due to the postal strike; and how many cattle he estimates this will render valueless. [157275]

Jonathan Shaw: BCMS receives around 49,000 applications each week for cattle passports. Passports are produced provided there is reasonable evidence to show that farmers submitted applications in good time or were prevented from doing so by factors outside their control. These factors include known postal strikes.

If applications were not submitted in reasonable time then a passport would be refused and farmers would be unable to move the animal from their holding. 0.35 per cent. of all applications received are normally refused, subject to appeal because they are late. The figures from the last postal strike show that 0.45 per cent. of applications were initially refused. Three quarters of these appealed against the decision and were successful because of the postal strike delays. This compares with 55 per cent. of such appeals during a similar period the previous year.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156622]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury issues accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 Department has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies;

2005-06

British Potato Council
British Waterways Board
Consumer Council For Water
Covent Garden Market Authority
English Nature
Environment Agency
Food From Britain
Gangmasters Licensing Authority
Home Grown Cereals Authority
Horticultural Development Council
Meat and Livestock Commission
Milk Development Council
Royal Botanical Gardens Kew

2006-07

British Potato Council
British Waterways Board
Countryside Agency
Commission For Rural Communities
Covent Garden Market Authority
English Nature
Food From Britain
Gangmasters Licensing Authority
Home Grown Cereals Authority
Horticultural Development Council
Meat and Livestock Commission
Milk Development Council
Natural England
Royal Botanical Gardens Kew

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to implement the recommendations of the review, Flooding Lessons Learned, chaired by Sir Michael Pitt. [158753]

Mr. Woolas: The Government await the findings of the Flooding Lessons Learned review and will respond as positively as possible to the recommendations.

Food: Procurement

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he intends to assess the effectiveness of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative in respect of small and local meat producers. [157329]

Jonathan Shaw: Earlier this year, DEFRA commissioned Ipsos MORI to gauge awareness of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) in schools and local authorities. The survey included questions on the proportion of tenders from small and local producers, including meat producers. The results were positive with:

three in five schools (59 per cent.) and four in five local authorities stating that they encourage tenders from small and local producers;

almost seven in 10 local authorities (69 per cent.) stating that at least half the food supplied to schools in their area is from small and local producers;

half of the schools (53 per cent.) stating that at least half of their food is supplied by small and local producers while one in ten schools (9 per cent.) say that all their food is supplied from these producers.

The report also found that in 52 per cent. of the local authorities and 44 per cent. of schools the proportion of food supplied by small and local producers during the last two to three years had increased.

A copy of the Ipsos MORI survey is on the PSFPI website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/school-food.htm. It was conducted during the period March to July 2007 and covered 81 local authorities and 255 schools.

Recent research by the Meat and Livestock Commission, based on estimates provided by 126 English local authorities, suggests that 39 per cent. of their meat by volume was locally sourced. The figure may exaggerate the amount of locally farmed meat supplied as not all local authorities seek provenance.

In addition to the research mentioned above, DEFRA is currently collating data from across central Government to determine the proportion of publicly procured food that is British. We aim to publish the information before the end of this month.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Compensation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what compensation will be made available to *(a)* auction marts which suffered closure owing to foot and mouth measures and *(b)* farmers who were unable to enter their stock for sale in such auction marts. [R] [157080]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans to compensate auction markets who suffered closure owing to foot and mouth measures, or farmers who were unable to enter their stock for sale in such auction markets.

Under the Animal Health Act 1981, compensation is paid for animals that are compulsorily slaughtered to prevent the spread of disease. For foot and mouth disease (FMD), the Act requires that compensation is paid at the full market value before the animal became infected. This is determined by an approved valuer at the time of slaughter. Compensation is also paid for other items, such as farm equipment and feed, where these are seized because they are considered to be contaminated; this includes such things as milk. However, it is a long established principle that the Government do not meet the costs of consequential losses, which must be borne by the industry. Government seek to minimise the risk of market impacts, particularly by encouraging public understanding of the issues.

We are taking a risk-based and staged approach to easing movement restrictions when the evidence indicates that it is appropriate to do so. This is the best way to facilitate the return to normal working for the industry. We are working in partnership with the industry, but eradication of foot and mouth disease remains our priority.

National Fallen Stock Collection and Disposal Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make support for the increased costs of collection available to those farmers with fallen stock in low risk areas which are now dependent upon using the National Fallen Stock Company for collection. [158161]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) announced on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 39, that DEFRA would provide £1 million to raise the level of subsidy for the National Fallen Stock scheme for farmers in the foot and mouth (FMD) risk area from 10 per cent. to 100 per cent. This is targeted to help the livestock farmers that have been worst affected financially from restrictions imposed as a result of FMD and this will be available to all livestock keepers in the FMD risk area.

The National Fallen Stock scheme will continue as normal in the rest of the UK and for non-susceptible livestock in the risk area, subject to FMD licensing controls. There are no plans for any extra support to be introduced.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff were employed by the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* Equal Opportunities Commission prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157110]

Barbara Follett: No staff were made redundant from any of the legacy commissions. However the three commissions ran voluntary severance schemes and the following numbers left the commissions: CRE had 78 leavers, DRC had 68 leavers and EOC had 39 leavers.

SCOTLAND

Youth Citizenship Commission

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when the Government expect to launch the Youth Citizenship Commission, as announced in the Green Paper: The Governance of Britain; and what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the involvement of young people from Scotland in the initiative. [156388]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Citizenship Commission will report to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Justice. It will be launched this autumn. There have been discussions at official level between the Secretariat for the Commission and the Scottish Executive.

WALES

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158582]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office complies with Cabinet Office guidelines for the maximum time for responding to correspondence.

The Wales Office publishes correspondence statistics in its annual report and to the Cabinet Office for their annual report to Parliament.

The latest figures for April 2006 to March 2007 were 93 per cent. of correspondence answered within 15 days of receipt.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158326]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office publishes staffing figures within the Departmental Annual Report. The 2007 Report (CM7110) provides data on staff including staff numbers, permanent and temporary staff. A copy of the report can be obtained from the Library of the House or it can be viewed on our website:

http://www.walesoffice.gov.uk/2007/AnnualReport2007.pdf.

The Wales Office has not employed any contractors in the last five years.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158906]

Mr. Hain: Wales Office records are kept in financial year.

£12,265 was spent on hospitality in financial year 2006-07.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159285]

Mr. Hain: I was delighted to be re-appointed Secretary of State for Wales. I have pressed forward the same policies of deepening devolution in Wales, particularly under the framework set by the Government of Wales Act 2006, and championing Welsh interests.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs of those preparations were. [156994]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W, by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband).

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157881]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office operates 15 websites. On 1 January 2005 the Department operated 11 websites. The estimated annual cost of running the Department's websites in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table.

	Estimated cost (£)
2002-03	28,355
2003-04	34,331
2004-05	30,374
2005-06	56,103
2006-07	39,837

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157882]

Paul Goggins: The most popular website run by the Northern Ireland Office is www.nio.gov.uk; it received 8,767,572 hits between 1 January 2007 and 31 August 2007.

The website used least was www.howsecureismyhome.com; it received 5,909 hits over this same period.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157880]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office currently has no staff seconded from outside Government.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker' Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will make a statement on steps being taken by the Electoral Commission to investigate the permissibility of the donation by Mr. Michael Brown to the Liberal Democrats. [158697]

Peter Viggers: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 748W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: EU Grants and Loans

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the BBC received in the form of *(a)* loans, *(b)* direct payments and *(c)* indirect payments from EU institutions in each of the last five years. [158605]

James Purnell: This is a matter for the BBC. The BBC Group finance director will consider the question raised by the hon. Member and write to him direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157890]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is as follows:

Visitor statistics 1 January to 31 August 2007

The following statistics refer to 'unique visitors' rather than 'hits' which is accepted as a more useful indicator of the popularity of sites.

The most popular site was the main website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/

Month	*Number*
January	141,954
February	162,029
March	155,449
April	140,659
May	107,151
June	110,018
July	100,454
August	87,734

The least popular was 'Where We Live' at:

http://www.wherewelive.org.uk/

Month	Number
January	520
February	520
March	478
April	415
May	585
June	479
July	396
August	426

Digital Broadcasting: Whitehaven

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of those eligible have applied for assistance with digital switchover in Whitehaven. [158568]

James Purnell: As of 15 October 2007, 33 per cent. of those identified as being eligible for assistance from the digital switchover help scheme in the Whitehaven area had contacted the help scheme administrator. 25 per cent. of those eligible for assistance opted to receive help; 8 per cent. of those eligible for assistance chose to opt-out of the scheme.

Internet: Copyright

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretaries of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the implementation of recommendation 39 of the Gowers Review, on internet service providers' responsibility for copyright theft. [158203]

Margaret Hodge: As Minister with responsibility for the creative industries, I have had discussions with my hon. Friend the Minister for Intellectual Property and Quality at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Competitiveness at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in relation to progress on the implementation of a range of recommendations from the Gowers review, including recommendation 39.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean dated 20 April and 18 July regarding the Waterways Museum in Gloucester. [158040]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member's letters on 16 October. I apologise for the completely unacceptable delay in responding to this correspondence. I am taking steps to ensure that officials respond efficiently to correspondence we receive.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many television licences have been issued to addresses in *(a)* Argyll and Bute constituency, *(b)* the STV Central region and *(c)* the STV North region. [158718]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The BBC has responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and the maintenance of television licence records. I understand from the BBC, however, that they are not able to provide a breakdown by constituency or TV region of the number of TV licences issued, as there is no operational need for the BBC to hold the information in this way. The information is recorded at individual address level and aggregated to national level for reporting purposes.

Visit Scotland

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the locations are of the overseas offices of *(a)* VisitScotland and *(b)* VisitWales. [157303]

Margaret Hodge: Neither VisitScotland nor VisitWales operates overseas offices.

However, under an agreement made between DCMS and the Scottish Executive in March 2005, VisitScotland carries out overseas marketing through VisitBritain's offices in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Eire.

VisitWales has two members of staff working in VisitBritain's New York office. These are the only representatives from VisitWales located overseas.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* VisitScotland and *(b)* VisitWales in each of the last five years. [157304]

Margaret Hodge: VisitScotland and VisitWales are fully funded by the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly respectively. Neither receives any funding from DCMS.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of families who have access to affordable childcare places in England, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency. [157729]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested.

Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, June 2007", which is available on their website,

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

Children: Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Secretary of State has the lead role in delivering the 2010 child poverty target; and if he will make a statement. [157600]

Beverley Hughes: As stated in 'PSA Delivery Agreement 9: Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020',

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions will be responsible for child poverty, and in addition the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the lead Minister for this PSA."

I refer the hon. Member to the reply of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 92W.

Foster Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will introduce a compulsory registration scheme for private fostering. [158256]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Government have agreed that at a suitable point we will publish a report on the impact of the enhanced notification scheme introduced by the Children Act 2004, and it is on that basis that we will announce whether or not we are minded to move towards a registration scheme.

Parents: Disadvantaged

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support his Department provides to parents in areas with high levels of gang and gun-related crime to help ensure that children do not become involved in criminal activity. [154095]

Beverley Hughes: We are providing extra funding this year to areas where gun, knife and gang crime is most prevalent to accelerate the roll-out of extended schools. Parenting support is an important part of the extended schools core offer of services. There are currently over 7,000 schools providing access to the core offer of services and by 2010 all schools will be offering these services.

In addition, DCSF is leading a number of wider activities that will provide parents with support to help them steer their children away from trouble. These include launching the £34 million Parent Know How programme; establishing the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners; investing £4 million to employ Respect parenting practitioners, targeted at helping parents whose children are most at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour; we have established a national network of 53 Family Intervention Projects supporting families facing the most problems; and we have set up, in 18 local authorities, Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinders for parents of younger children who are at risk of negative outcomes.

Play: Facilities

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of publicly run play areas for children available in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [154787]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally. We recognise fully the benefits of play for children and we continue to take steps to support and promote the provision of opportunities for play. For example, between 2008-09 and 2010-11, we are providing over £1.1 billion for schools so that every school will be offering access to extended services by 2010. Through this, children and families will be able to access breakfast and after-school clubs, a range of activities and community services, with areas for play an important element of the provision.

In addition, the Government are supporting improvements to the quality of parks and green spaces in all our towns and cities, especially the most deprived areas, so that everyone has access to good quality spaces close to where they live. The quality of parks and green spaces is being driven up by the Government-supported Green Flag Award Scheme; knowledge, capacity and skills within local authorities have been enhanced through the How To programme and the work of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, and many communities have improved their local spaces through support Groundwork, the Living Spaces programme and the Liveability Fund.

Video Games: Violence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what process is to be followed by the online review into the effect of violent video games; [158561]

(2) which groups and organisations have been approached to take part in the review into the effect of violent video games; [158562]

(3) when he expects the review into the effect of violent video games will be complete; and when the results will be published; [158563]

(4) whether there are any other data collection methods the review into violent video games will use other than the online questionnaire. [158564]

Beverley Hughes: The review being carried out by Dr. Tanya Byron will consider the evidence on the risks to children and young people from inappropriate or harmful content in video games and the internet and assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to protect them and support parents.

An open call for evidence was published by Dr. Byron on 9 October 2007, running until 30 November 2007. It asks respondents to respond online via the Department's website or to email or post responses to the questions posed in the call for evidence document.

A children and young people's call for evidence is due out in week commencing 22 October 2007 and will be promoted through a wide range of media platforms (including social networking sites and online debates).

In addition to considering responses to these two open calls for evidence, the Byron Review will draw upon a wide range of existing evidence, including published commentary and research literature, and will undertake some further research in areas where gaps in the literature have been identified.

Since the review was announced on 8 September 2007, the review has met with groups, organisations and individuals representing parents; children and young people; those involved in the welfare, education and safety of children; the academic and research community; the video gaming industry; gamers; the internet industry (including producers, content aggregators, web hosts, internet service providers, search and navigation providers, consumer device manufacturers and retailers); advertising and retail bodies; government agencies; other statutory and non-statutory public bodies and third sector organisations. Dr. Byron and her team will continue to meet with key stakeholders throughout the period of the review, and they welcome input from any interested person or organisation.

The final report (due to be published in March 2008) will make recommendations to the Secretaries of State for Children's Schools and Families and Culture Media and Sport. This will include a list of individuals and groups that have contributed to the Review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Alisher Usmanov

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish reports received from British embassies relating to Alisher Usmanov. [158765]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Such information would constitute personal data. A request for personal information brings into play the relevant legislative provisions on data release by the Government and would require the consent of the individual concerned.

Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers from his Department attended the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition in September. [158779]

Dr. Howells: I can confirm to my hon. Friend that no Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers attended the Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi) event in September to which he refers.

However, the FCO did jointly sponsor a seminar at the DSEi event with the Defence Manufacturers Association. The seminar aimed to raise awareness and build support for an International Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) among the defence and military equipment industry. John Duncan, UK ambassador for Multilateral and Disarmament Affairs in Geneva, gave a speech about the UK's approach to an ATT and responded to questions on the subject.

Departments: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151664]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The recorded expenditure for agency staff for each financial year since 1997 is as follows:

	£
1997-98	451,207
1998-99	799,523
1999-2000	971,657
2000-01	1,584,850
2001-02	2,434,202
2002-03	3,230,264
2003-04	2,357,123
2004-05	1,110,154
2005-06	2,298,906
2006-07	3,344,461

Expenditure in respect of temporary and permanent agency staff is not recorded separately. The increase in expenditure in 2006-07 arose from the need to recruit temporary staff to assist Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services to move to Trading Fund status, and to enable the FCO's account to be signed off earlier than in previous years.

Gaza: Travel Restrictions

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Israeli authorities in the case of Khaled Mudallel on his return from Gaza to his business studies course at Bradford university. [158826]

Dr. Howells: We raised this issue with the Israeli embassy in London on 15 October. The embassy told us that Mr. Mudallel has been advised that he can leave Gaza via the Nitzana Border Terminal.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estim[illegible] he has made of the number of British residency permit holders unable to leave Gaza due to official action. [158827]

Dr. Howells: We have made no formal estimate. However, we are currently discussing the problem with our EU colleagues. We continue to raise concerns about movement and access with the Government for Israel.

Indian Sub-Continent: Entry Clearances

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa offices are operated by his Department in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* India and *(c)* Pakistan; and how many staff are employed in each of those offices to process visa applications. [158287]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas has one Visa Section in Bangladesh, located at our high commission in Dhaka. There are four Visa Sections in India, located at our high commission in New Delhi and our deputy high commissions in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. There are two Visa Sections in Pakistan, located at our high commission in Islamabad and our deputy high commission in Karachi.

The following table displays the total number of staff employed at each of these Visa Sections to process visa applications. The figures include entry clearance managers, officers, assistants, local support staff and those on short-term contracts.

Staff employed at UK Visa Sections in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan

	Number
New Delhi	100
Mumbai	84
Chennai	58
Kolkata	6
Dhaka	74
Islamabad	206
Karachi	13

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa applications were processed by his Department in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* India and *(c)* Pakistan in each (i) year and (ii) month since 2001. [158288]

Dr. Howells: The following table displays the total number of UK visa applications processed by our visa sections in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in each year and month since April 2001.

Number of UK visa applications processed by our visa sections in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan

	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
Bangladesh						
2001-02	1,994	2,809	2,817	3,595	2,978	2,750
2002-03	1,914	2,473	2,477	3,309	3,419	3,712
2003-04	2,324	2,881	3,590	4,215	3,881	4,274
2004-05	3,285	3,920	5,144	4,996	4,822	4,133
2005-06	2,915	3,691	4,176	3,358	4,246	3,554
2006-07	4,011	4,500	4,195	4,297	4,530	3,633
India						
2001-02	24,462	27,376	21,688	21,702	20,281	16,659
2002-03	25,084	35,102	16,970	28,668	29,416	23,648
2003-04	27,707	33,922	29,524	28,919	26,695	28,262
2004-05	39,940	37,991	36,083	31,551	31,894	29,892
2005-06	43,767	47,499	43,090	32,142	35,028	32,787
2006-07	47,034	56,617	47,139	41,803	42,531	36,078
Pakistan						
2001-02	11,637	17,214	17,250	15,043	12,819	8,099
2002-03	4,717	9,403	473	8,091	5,959	6,113
2003-04	9,245	11,057	10,289	11,897	9,151	8,992
2004-05	17,831	24,621	29,556	19,010	17,592	12,612
2005-06	15,674	18,932	21,297	15,721	14,948	13,215
2006-07	17,047	22,538	25,726	22,611	22,332	16,346

	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*Total*
Bangladesh							
2001-02	1,772	1,959	1,545	2,247	1,451	2,086	28,003
2002-03	2,288	1,876	2,275	2,974	1,897	2,470	31,084
2003-04	3,601	2,721	2,817	2,970	2,786	3,931	39,991
2004-05	2,750	2,608	3,123	2,313	2,347	3,121	42,562
2005-06	2,844	2,274	3,091	2,580	2,786	3,905	39,420
2006-07	2,661	3,168	3,905	3,180	3,079	3,487	44,646
India							
2001-02	11,232	10,498	9,468	12,308	14,020	19,465	209,159
2002-03	17,760	12,297	12,938	16,369	14,228	19,270	251,750
2003-04	21,093	15,205	17,918	19,061	21,849	33,080	303,235
2004-05	20,396	17,660	19,884	18,606	24,559	37,123	345,579
2005-06	24,231	21,703	20,205	24,314	28,131	42,478	395,375
2006-07	26,812	25,836	22,887	28,201	30,300	48,761	453,999

	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
Pakistan							
2001-02	3,113	2,676	2,045	5,235	6,151	7,901	109,183
2002-03	7,762	5,837	6,487	7,526	5,120	6,312	73,800
2003-04	8,781	7,407	10,611	11,733	10,442	15,281	124,886
2004-05	9,787	9,692	12,250	9,251	12,691	15,838	190,731
2005-06	9,395	10,741	13,164	11,586	11,499	16,212	172,384
2006-07	12,035	15,623	16,792	13,005	13,645	16,328	214,028

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visas have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* refused by his Department in (i) Bangladesh, (ii) India and (iii) Pakistan since 2001. [158289]

Dr. Howells: The following table displays the total number of UK visa applications issued and refused by our visa sections in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan since 2001.

	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Issued	Refused	Issued	Refused	Issued	Refused	Issued	Refused	Issued	Refused
Chennai	40,646	3,460	46,193	8,653	55,944	12,526	68,675	13,712	81,526	13,659
Kolkata	9,907	199	10,776	329	11,813	880	13,155	1,101	14,923	979
Mumbai	66,108	7,960	71,776	10,907	91,070	20,216	109,845	25,728	119,130	28,953
New Delhi	64,343	12,517	67,948	19,753	81,479	25,013	88,862	32,363	100,893	33,079
India	181,004	24,136	196,693	39,642	240,306	58,635	280,537	72,904	316,472	76,670
Dhaka	19,896	7,671	21,504	10,658	21,748	11,914	20,837	19,153	27,554	16,543
Bangladesh	19,896	7,671	21,504	10,658	21,748	11,914	20,837	19,153	27,554	16,543
Islamabad	56,182	24,420	42,844	7,670	92,189	21,768	91,446	76,640	89,821	61,044
Lahore[1]	8,289	2,549	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karachi	28,634	7,904	9,788	2,503	1,793	7	11,505	5,003	20,665	7,568
Pakistan	93,105	34,873	52,632	10,173	93,982	21,775	102,951	81,643	110,486	68,612

[1] The visa section at the British Trade Office in Lahore closed in 2002.

Source:

UK Visas Published Entry Clearance Statistics from 2001-02 to 2005-06

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what targets are set for the processing of visa applications by consular staff in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* India and *(c)* Pakistan. [158290]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas does not set targets for its staff to process visa applications. Instead, UKvisas measures performance at all of its missions abroad against the following public service agreement (PSA) standards.

PSA 1: 90 per cent. of straightforward non-settlement applications to be processed within 24-hours.

PSA 2: 90 per cent. of non-settlement applications requiring further enquiries or interview to be processed within 15 days.

PSA 3: 90 per cent of settlement applications to be processed within 12 weeks.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the persecution of the Baha'i community, with particular reference to young Baha'i people being allowed to attend university; and if he will make a statement. [158551]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned about the treatment of religious minorities in Iran. The Baha'i faith is not formally recognised under the Iranian Constitution and as a result Baha'is routinely face persecution and discrimination. In recent years Baha'is have been subject to arbitrary arrests, confiscation of property and restrictions on employment. Denial of access to higher education has been a long-term problem for Baha'i students.

After the religious identifier was removed from the national university entrance examination in 2006, a number of Baha'i students sat the exam for last academic year (2006-07). Over 250 Baha'i students were admitted to campuses across Iran, but 120 were expelled throughout the year as the universities discovered their religion. This year, students applying to study at technical and vocational institutes were required to complete a form stating their religion. The options did not include the Baha'i religion, so Baha'i students were once again effectively excluded from applying to these institutions. We do not yet know the situation facing Baha'i university students this academic year, but we remain concerned that more Baha'is may be prevented from applying to university or expelled in the future.

We continue to monitor the situation and raise concerns about the treatment of the Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, bilaterally and through the EU.

The EU presidency raised specific concerns about the issue of Baha'i access to higher education in meetings with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 September and 10 October.

Iraq: Overseas Workers

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many UK citizens were employed by non-UK-based private contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters in each of the last five years; [158257]

(2) how many UK citizens were employed by non UK-based private security contractors in Iraq in each of the last five years; [158258]

(3) how many UK citizens were employed by UK-based private contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters in each of the last five years. [158261]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the information requested by the hon. Member.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many UK citizens working for UK-based private security contractors in Iraq were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158259]

(2) how many UK citizens working for non UK-based private security contractors in Iraq were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158260]

(3) how many people employed by UK-based security contractors in Iraq were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158264]

(4) how many people employed by UK-based contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158265]

(5) how many UK citizens working for non UK-based contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158266]

(6) how many UK citizens working for UK-based contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years. [158267]

Dr. Howells: Our consular records show that at least 72 British civilians have died in Iraq since March 2003.

2003—6
2004—23
2005—12
2006—22
2007—9

This number includes deaths from natural causes but is not a definitive figure as records include only those cases where consular assistance has been sought. The figure does not include British dual nationals or unrepresented foreign nationals.

We also have records of 78 British civilians who have been injured in Iraq over the same period.

2003—7
2004—30
2005—15
2006—1
2007—15

We do not collect data in a form which would enable us to distinguish between private security companies or other contractors nor the country of origin of those employers. Consular officials do not have accurate figures on non-British nationals in the above categories.

Iraq: Resettlement

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-8WS, on Iraq: assistance to locally employed staff, what his estimate is of the number of Iraqi nationals who *(a)* work and *(b)* have worked in Iraq as (i) direct employees of the UK armed forces or the Ministry of Defence, (ii) on letters of appointment from HM embassy Baghdad or the British embassy offices in Basra and the Kurdistan region and (iii) as direct employees of the Department for International Development or the British Council. [157993]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* About 500 locally engaged staff currently work in Iraq as direct employees of the UK armed forces or the Ministry of Defence and a further 43 work on letters of appointment from our embassy in Baghdad and our embassy Offices in Basra or Erbil, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the British Council.

About 20,000 have worked for the UK armed forces or the Ministry of Defence and a further 140 have worked on letters of appointment from our embassy in Baghdad, our embassy Offices in Basra or Erbil, DFID and the British Council.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made towards a peace settlement in the Middle East. [158658]

Dr. Howells: In the run up to the November international meeting I believe that a window of opportunity now exists with: a continuing Israeli Prime Minister Olmert/Palestinian President Abbas dialogue; the right hon. Tony Blair's engagement; and a rejuvenated Arab Peace Initiative. We will continue to work with international partners to develop these proposals and move us closer to a two-state solution.

We would like to see at the US-hosted November meeting, an agreement that puts the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008 leading to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security.

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the signing of human rights agreements by Saudi Arabia on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia; and if he will make a statement. [158029]

Dr. Howells: Saudi Arabia is party to the following international instruments:

Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Convention on the Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

Convention against torture; and

International convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Saudi Arabia's human rights record is poor but improving. Complete implementation of these instruments continues to be a challenge. It is the role of the UN treaty monitoring bodies to assess how well a country is fulfilling its obligations under a treaty. The Government continue to work both bilaterally and with EU partners to encourage Saudi Arabia to fulfil its obligations and report on time.

From April 2008 the UN Human Rights Council will be implementing periodic reviews on all the human rights records of all Member States.

Ukraine: Work Permits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average price was of a UK work visa from Ukraine in each year since 2003. [157957]

Dr. Howells: The current fee for a Work Permit Holder visa application at our Visa Section in Kiev is £200. From 1 July 2005 to 31 March 2007, the fee for a Work Permit Holder visa was £85. Prior to this, Work Permit Holders paid the long-term non-settlement fee of £75.

TRANSPORT

A358

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1109W, on the A358, what discussions she has had with the *(a)* Highways Agency and *(b)* Regional Fire Control Centre at Blackbrook on the proposed scheme to link the A358 and M5 at Blackbrook in Taunton constituency; and what the outcome of those discussions was. [158625]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Highways Agency had a constructive meeting with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and their consultants on 31 August 2007 to discuss the impact of the A303/A358 South Petherton to M5 Taunton Improvement scheme on the Fire Control Centre at Blackbrook.

It was agreed that both parties should work together to resolve any issues. The Highways Agency have sent further information to DCLG to allow their consultants to update the risk assessment of the site.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1109W, on the A358, if she will take steps to make the Highways Agency report into alternative schemes to link the A358 and M5 at Blackbrook in Taunton constituency available to local residents; if she will undertake a further public consultation on the alternative schemes; and if she will place a copy of the report in the Library. [158626]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In response to public feedback received during consultation, the Highways Agency is currently considering two alternative options to connect the M5 northbound and the A358 eastbound (Blackbrook loop). The outcome of this additional work will be included in an addendum to the public consultation report, which would be published in due course.

Should it be considered necessary to amend the proposed scheme as a result of this further work then it is likely that further limited consultation would be undertaken.

When the report is published it will be posted on the Highways Agency's website and be deposited in the local area for the public to view.

Airports: Passengers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers passed through *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick airports between April and September 2007; and if she will make a statement. [159355]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of terminal passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick airport in each month between April and September 2007.

Terminal passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick, April-September 2007

Thousand

	Heathrow	*Gatwick*
April	5,667	2,722
May	5,611	3,012
June	6,014	3,359
July	6,419	3,787
August[1]	6,378	3,969
September[1]	6,022	3,550
Total	36,111	20,400

[1] August and September figures are provisional.

Source:
CAA airport statistics.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much has been allocated to Chorley borough council to fund the free local concessionary bus travel scheme in 2007-08; [158729]

(2) what increase in the rate support grant Chorley borough council will receive to fund free national off-peak travel for pensioners and disabled people for 2008-09. [158730]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From April 2006, older and disabled people have been guaranteed free off-peak local bus travel within their local authority area. The existing funding for statutory concessionary fares is supported through Formula Grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed Business Rates and Principal Formula Police Grant.

Formula Grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend the money on any service. Because of this and the method of calculation, particularly floor damping (which guarantees local authorities at least a minimum percentage increase by scaling back increases for other authorities), it is not possible to say how much of the total Formula Grant funding is for any particular service.

Local authorities have the discretion to offer (and fund from their own resources) enhancements to the statutory minimum, such as peak bus travel and/or concessions on other modes.

The £212 million of extra funding to English authorities for the national bus concession from April 2008 will be distributed by a non-ringfenced special grant via a formula. The Department has recently published a consultation paper on the formula basis for distribution of the special grant. This new consultation supersedes the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on the formula grant options for concessionary fares. Local authorities have been asked to respond to the special grant consultation by 23 November.

In addition, we have announced that we will be providing local authorities with approximately £30 million for the issuing of the national pass; it is likely that Chorley borough council will receive around £69,000 of this additional funding.

Cars: Hire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* traffic offences occurred involving hire cars in Peterborough constituency in each of the last five years. [158962]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Crossrail Line

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether a financing agreement is in place for the Crossrail project. [158495]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the White Paper for the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 9 October 2007.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place a copy in the Library of the financial agreement on Crossrail. [158492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Subject to commercial confidentiality, the Secretary of State expects to place relevant agreements in the Library in due course.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contingency preparations her Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [156993]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

Motorcycles: Accidents

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents there have been involving *(a)* motorcyclists, *(b)* bicycles and *(c)* only motorcyclists and bicyclists in each year since 1997. [158672]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least *(a)* one motorcyclist, *(b)* one pedal cyclist and *(c)* no other vehicles or pedestrians but at least one motorcyclist and at least one pedal cyclist, in each year since 1997 is shown in the table—note that *(c)* is included in both *(a)* and *(b)*.

	Number of accidents involving at least one:		
	Motorcycle	*Pedal cycle*	*Motorcycle and pedal cycle only*
1997	24,928	24,705	5,850
1998	23,188	24,969	5,649
1999	23,221	26,537	5,945
2000	20,866	28,635	6,051
2001	19,316	29,398	6,067
2002	17,373	28,825	5,691
2003	17,300	28,721	5,931
2004	16,922	26,151	5,526
2005	16,856	25,204	4,799
2006	16,440	23,730	4,734

Railways: Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the extra rail carriages announced by her Department in the five-year plan published on 24 July have been introduced; and on which lines. [156923]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The extra rail carriages are to be introduced in stages between 2009 and 2014.

Roads: Accidents

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents in each of the last five years involved children; and if she will make a statement. [159262]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one child casualty (aged 0 to 15) for each of the last five years is:

	Number
2002	30,430
2003	28,264
2004	27,253
2005	24,837
2006	22,676

In 2000, the Government set a PSA target to achieve a 50 per cent. reduction in the number of children aged 0 to 15 killed or seriously injured by 2010, compared with the average for 1994-98. 3,294 children were killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in 2006, which is 52 per cent. below the 1994-98 average of 6,860. In February 2007 we issued a new child road safety strategy, which sets out further measures to improve child road safety.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many liability orders the Child Support Agency has applied for in each month since January 2003; how many of these were inaccurate in any particular; and how many were *(a)* withdrawn and *(b)* dismissed. [146178]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many liability orders the Child Support Agency has applied for in each month since January 2003; how many of these were inaccurate in any particular; and how many were (a) withdrawn and (b) dismissed. (146178)

Such information as is available is set out in the attached table. The Agency holds information on; the number of liability orders it has applied for, the numbers subsequently granted as well as information on the numbers of applications withdrawn by the Agency pre and post hearing and the numbers of cases dismissed by the Courts. This information is recorded and validated on a yearly basis only. The Agency currently does not hold management information on the accuracy of individual elements of child maintenance cases such as the liability order process.

Information on a range of enforcement actions is routinely published in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). A copy of this is available in the House of Commons Library and is also available on the Internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_jun07.asp

The Agency seeks liability orders in cases where the non-resident parent is failing to meet their responsibilities to maintain their children. In many cases, as the non-resident parent may not have co-operated fully in the assessment and calculation of their maintenance liability, the Agency will proceed on the basis of the information available. As the Agency will continue to correspond with the non-resident parent throughout the time taken for a liability order to be granted, the non-resident parent can at any time supply information which may lead to a review of the maintenance assessment, or indeed make payments to comply with the maintenance liability. In addition, in some cases the parent with care can request that any maintenance owed directly to them not be recovered, the Agency will then consider withdrawing the liability order application prior to the court hearing.

Once a liability order is being actively considered by the Court, the non-resident parent can make representations for the Court to dismiss the liability order. The Courts currently dismiss less than one per cent of applications. The Agency believes that this is a good indication of the robustness of the checking regime currently in place. Finally, once a liability order has been awarded, the non-resident parent can again bring forward additional information, or indeed settle their arrears and the Agency may again consider whether it is appropriate to proceed with the application.

It should therefore be noted that there are many reasons that the Agency may withdraw a liability order application, however the Agency currently does not record individual reasons an application may be withdrawn. The most relevant measure of the accuracy of the Agency's process is therefore the low numbers of cases dismissed by the Courts, following representations from the non-resident parent.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

	Applied for	*Withdrawn pre-hearing*	*Dismissed*	*Granted*	*Withdrawn post-hearing*
2002-03	5,540	202	69	2,383	—
2003-04	6,719	285	71	3,885	—
2004-05	10,483	467	16	7,760	199
2005-06	11,926	882	49	*11,245	262
2006-07	15,309	1,212	50	*13,335	232

Notes:

1. A liability order is a document obtained from the court showing that they legally recognise the debt. This is the same in both England and Wales, and Scotland and is required before the Agency can use litigation powers (Diligence in Scotland).
2. The figures marked with an asterix* are sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics. All other figures have been clerically collated and are actual figures, not subject to rounding.
3. Figures sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics are rounded to the nearest five.
4. Robust information on the numbers of liability order withdrawn post-hearing is unavailable prior to April 2004.
5. Due to differences in the Scottish legal system, cases classified by the Agency as withdrawn pre-hearing are classified by the courts as dismissed.
6. It should be noted that for any period, the number of liability orders applied for will not directly relate to the number of applications granted as the process can take many weeks to complete. Liability orders applied for in one period may not be granted until the following period.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value is of the contracts the Child Support Agency (CSA) has with external debt collectors; how much has been paid to date under such contracts; with which debt collectors the CSA has contracts; how many cases they are handling; what the average debt outstanding on transfer to the external debt collectors is; how many cases they have successfully recovered outstanding debt from *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part; and what average sum has been recovered. [155937]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the total value is of the contracts the Child Support Agency (CSA) has with external debt collectors; how much has been paid to date under such contracts; with which debt collectors the CSA has contracts; how many cases they are handling; what the average debt outstanding on transfer to the external debt collectors is; how many cases they have successfully recovered outstanding debt from (a) in full and (b) in part; and what average sum has been recovered. [155937]

The Agency has a current contract with two debt collection agencies, Eversheds LLP and iQor. The contract with both of these debt collection agencies has been let on a commission basis and the final value of the contract will be dependent on the amount of debt collected by them. Up to 31 August 2007, the Agency has paid over £360,000 to the debt collection agencies under this contract.

As at 31 August 2007, the Agency has referred over 59,000 cases to the debt collection agencies with an average debt value of £5,250. Of these, the agencies have collected debt in over 12,000 cases, from which 2,003 non-resident parents have paid their child support maintenance debt in full, with the average collection being £444.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely impact of proposed reductions in staffing of the Child Support Agency (CSA) on the effectiveness of the CSA and its successor the Child Maintenance and Support Commission. [155614]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Agency is committed to meeting both the departmentally agreed headcount target of 9,547 by March 2008 and the Secretary of State performance targets for the coming year. Computer system improvements as part of the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan will ensure client service in both CSA, and later C-MEC, will not be affected by this reduction in headcount.

Child Support Agency: Standards

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Belfast unit of the Child Support Agency over the last *(a)* six months and *(b)* year in handling claims involving children from Northamptonshire. [154969]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Belfast unit of the Child Support Agency over the last (a) six months and (b) year in handling claims involving children from Northamptonshire. [154969]

Such information as is available for Northamptonshire cases is set out in tables S1a to S4b of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). Unfortunately, these tables have recently been added and only give information back to December 2006. These tables show that at end of June 2007 the compliance rate for the Nottinghamshire area is 67%, slightly above that of the national average of 66%. The Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics is available in the House of Commons Library or on the Internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_jun07.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of HM Revenue and Customs gross income data which will be *(a)* less than one year out of date, *(b)* more than one year out of date and *(c)* more than two years out of date when calculating child maintenance under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [154619]

Mr. Plaskitt: Under the proposed scheme, non-resident parents' maintenance liabilities will be based on their gross income for the latest tax year available from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs at the time that a case is opened or is subject to an annual review.

With the increased focus on parents agreeing to voluntary arrangements and the ending of the requirement that parents with care on benefit be treated as applying for child maintenance, not all of the current Child Support Agency case load will choose to use the statutory maintenance service. Since we do not know the precise composition of the resulting case load, no estimates have been made on the proportion of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs gross income data which will be *(a)* less than one year out of date, *(b)* more than one year out of date and *(c)* more than two years out of date when calculating child maintenance under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Department is taking to enable the recovery of historical debt of non-resident parents by the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [156491]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* We want to take firm action at the earliest opportunity against non-resident parents who do not fulfil their responsibility to pay maintenance.

The Child Support Agency has already begun to improve the recovery of debt as part of the Operational Improvement Plan and is committed to recovering over £200 million historic debt by 2009.

The Commission will build on the current Child Support Agency debt strategy and the success of the Operational Improvement Plan. Through the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill we intend to strengthen the range of enforcement and debt management powers that will be at the disposal of the

Commission. The Bill proposes new and streamlined enforcement provisions such as administrative liability orders, disqualification from holding or obtaining a travel authorisation, collection of maintenance directly from accounts held by financial institutions, enforcing the surrender of a non-resident parent's passport and imposing a curfew.

New debt management powers, such as the ability to accept part payment of arrears in full and final settlement, will, where appropriate, take account of the wishes of the parent with care. These powers will help the Commission manage debt, including interim maintenance assessment debt. The new debt management and enforcement measures will be used both to encourage ongoing compliance to prevent the new debt building up, and to enable more of the accumulated debt to be recovered.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children he estimates will be taken out of poverty when the new £40 disregard for child maintenance is introduced. [158797]

Caroline Flint: We estimate that around 50,000 children will be lifted out of poverty by increasing the child maintenance disregard to £40 a week from April 2010.

Commission for Equality and Human Rights: Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on staffing levels at the Commission for Equality and Human Rights; and if he will make a statement. [157817]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Equality and Human Rights Commission currently plans to employ approximately 500 staff. There is no intention to make a statement.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155875]

Mrs. McGuire: The details of consultancy engagements and related costs by all projects across the Department for Work and Pensions and all its agencies over the last three years are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. A particular exercise to obtain this information for the 12 projects with the largest engagement with consultancy firms over the last three years has been conducted and the results are shown in the following table.

Consultancy firm	*Project title*	*Approximate value (£ million)*
IBM	Finance Transformation Programme	63
Booz Allen Hamilton	Pensions Transformation Programme	55
Capgemini	Programme and Systems Delivery Transformation	26
PA Consulting	Payment Modernisation Programme	25
Capgemini	HR Modernisation	17
Capgemini	DCS Change Programme	16
Capgemini	DWP Change Programme	7
Deloitte	PSD Transformation Support—network services integration	7
Deloitte	PSD Transformation Support—network services integration	6
Atos Origin	Finance Transformation/Procurement Modernisation	6
PA Consulting	JCP and DCS Integrated Delivery	6
Deloitte	Central Payment System Programme	5

Departments: Dismissal

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many departmental staff have been dismissed for gross misconduct in each of the last five years. [157175]

Mrs. McGuire: The information on the number of people dismissed for gross misconduct for the period July 2003 to March 2007 is shown in the following table.

No information is available for the period before July 2003.

Information for the period from April 2007 to March 2008 is not available.

Number of employees dismissed in Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for gross misconduct

	Number of employees
July 2003 to March 2004	53
April 2004 to March 2005	223
April 2005 to March 2006	227
April 2006 to March 2007	121

Jobcentre Plus: Doctors

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints were received about doctors contracted to Jobcentre Plus to carry out incapacity benefit assessments, in each of the last five years, broken down by local benefits agency; and if he will make a statement. [154866]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Medical services are provided to DWP under contract by Atos Healthcare. Doctors carrying out incapacity benefit (IB) assessments are engaged by Atos Healthcare not Jobcentre Plus.

Atos Healthcare only began keeping records of complaints received by local benefits office in 2004 and by Jobcentre Plus region in 2005. Information about the number of complaints received per Medical Services Centre, relating to IB is in the following table.

Number of complaints received per Medical Services Centre relating to IB

Medical Services Centre	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]	*Grand total*
Birmingham	62	71	78	88	23	27	349
Bootle	105	114	91	89	51	33	483
Bristol	54	70	47	43	29	28	271
Croydon	116	89	95	71	45	37	453
Cardiff	49	60	56	32	25	22	244
Edinburgh	36	21	31	36	9	14	147
Glasgow	98	78	67	50	27	28	348
Leeds	102	116	113	89	59	41	520
Manchester	77	61	50	37	25	15	265
Newcastle	78	82	105	63	40	25	393
Nottingham	89	56	63	60	70	50	388
Wembley	107	138	125	110	50	49	579
Customer relations team	86	35	32	37	33	20	243
Total complaints	1,059	991	953	805	486	389	4,653
Total IB examinations	522,803	507,479	461,000	485,237	499,895	358,207	2,834,621
Percentage complaints/examinations	0.20	0.19	0.21	0.17	0.10	0.11	0.16

[1] January to August

Note:
The last row of the table indicates the number of 'Official Correspondence' complaints that the Customer Relations Team received, which are not differentiated by Medical Services Centre.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many doctors contracted to Jobcentre Plus to carry out incapacity benefit assessments were removed from their role in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [154867]

(2) how many doctors contracted to Jobcentre Plus to carry out incapacity benefit assessments resigned in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [154868]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Medical services are provided to DWP under contract by Atos Healthcare. Doctors carrying out incapacity benefit (IB) assessments are engaged by Atos Healthcare not Jobcentre Plus. The available information is in the following table.

Number of doctors carrying out IB assessments who have resigned, retired or whose approval has been revoked

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Resigned	22	68	93	65	47
Retire	4	21	13	8	6
Approval revoked	10	31	15	16	7

National Insurance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the surplus is in the National Insurance Fund; what surplus he expects to be in that fund for each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [157342]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is shown in paragraph 4 and Appendix 9 of the Report by the Government Actuary on the drafts of the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2007 and the Social Security (Contributions) (Re-rating and National insurance Funds Payments) Order 2007.

National Insurance: Bexleyheath

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford in 2006-07. [153897]

Mr. Plaskitt: 2,731 national insurance numbers were issued to residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign nationals in the Shepway district were issued with national insurance numbers in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the preceding four years. [156611]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available on how many national insurance numbers were issued. The available information on the numbers of registrations for national insurance numbers is in the following table.

Number of national insurance numbers registered to foreign nationals in Shepway local authority area

Year of registration	*Number of registrations*
2004-05	410
2005-06	670
2006-07	900

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded addresses of the NINO recipient.
5. Information is not available prior to 2004-05.

Source:
100 per cent. sample at 25 June 2005, 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the National Insurance Recording System

Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the yearly value in absolute terms was of the standard basic state pension for *(a)* a pensioner couple and *(b)* a single pensioner, excluding winter fuel and over-75 payments, in each year since 1997-98. [158142]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

	Pensioner couple	*Single pensioner*
1997-98	5,189.60	3,247.40
1998-99	5,376.80	3,364.40
1999-2000	5,548.40	3,471.00
2000-01	5,610.80	3,510.00
2001-02	6,026.80	3,770.00
2002-03	6,276.40	3,926.00
2003-04	6,437.60	4,027.40
2004-05	6,617.00	4,139.20
2005-06	6,822.40	4,266.60
2006-07	7,007.00	4,381.00
2007-08	7,259.20	4,539.60

Notes:
1. The figure for each year is its cash value.
2. There are no singles or couples rates as such. The basic state pension is an individual benefit; although the Category A rate is commonly referred to as the singles rate, and the combination of the Category A and Category B rate is commonly referred to as the couples rate.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at how many of the establishments in the UK with a certificate of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 there is at least one member of the animal care staff or licensee constantly on site. [158152]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The information requested is not held by the Home Office.

Primary responsibility for animals used in regulated procedures rests with the personal licensee concerned. Under personal licence standard conditions 12 and 15 set out in Appendix E to the published Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321) the personal licensee must ensure that animals are properly monitored and cared for and that suitable arrangements exist for the care and welfare of any animals during any period when the personal licensee is not in attendance.

In addition, certificate of designation standard conditions 4 and 9 set out in Appendix B to the guidance require that establishments must be appropriately staffed at all times to ensure the well-being of the protected animals and that they must be provided with adequate care and accommodation appropriate to their type or species. Further requirements are set out in certificate of designation standard conditions 10 and 12.

In practice, professional judgment is exercised on a case-by-case basis by the personal licensee, named veterinary surgeon and named animal care and welfare officer to decide the level of care to be provided, which could involve 24-hour monitoring.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been sentenced to custody for breach of an antisocial behaviour order. [156304]

Jacqui Smith: The latest data available on sentencing for breach of an ASBO relate to 2000 to 2003. These show that of the 793 people found guilty of breach of ASBO 134 were sentenced to custody for breach of ASBO alone—in all other cases, they were convicted for other offences at the same time.

Asylum

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* principal applicants and *(b)* dependants have been admitted to the United Kingdom under the Gateway Refugee Resettlement Programme in each year since the scheme commenced. [157967]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Gateway Protection Programme became operational in the financial year 2004-05 when 64 principal applicants and 86 dependants were admitted to the UK. In 2005-06 56 principal applicants and 192 dependants were admitted and in 2006-07 139 principal applicants and 368 dependants were admitted to the UK under the Gateway resettlement programme.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quota the Government set for the maximum number of admissions under the Gateway Refugee Resettlement Programme in each year since the scheme commenced; and what quotas have been set for future years. [157968]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Since the Gateway Protection Programme commenced in 2004 the Government have set the quota at 500 refugees per financial year. The Government have not yet set the quota for future years.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to the Borders and Immigration Agency on how to handle applications for exceptional leave to remain in Britain from Iraqi nationals who have worked in Iraq for the UK armed forces or the British Government in one or more of the categories set out in the written statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-8WS, on Iraq: assistance to locally employed staff. [157969]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Foreign Secretary announced on 8 October 2007 the criteria under which current locally engaged staff who had worked for HMG in Iraq would be eligible for referral for exceptional leave to enter the UK. Officials are currently working up the guidance to be issued to the Border and Immigration Agency staff dealing with the cases.

Asylum: Parents

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases remain to be determined under the initiative announced on 24 October 2003 on the right to remain of asylum seekers with children. [158197]

Mr. Byrne: The number of cases identified for consideration up to 31 March 2007 (the last quarter for which information is available) was 61,485 of which 61,135 were determined leaving 350 cases outstanding.

BAE Systems: USA

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason her Department has not yet complied with the request for mutual legal assistance from the United States in relation to its investigation into BAE Systems; and when she expects her Department to comply with this request. [158357]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The request is receiving careful consideration. It is not appropriate to speculate on a time scale for a decision on its execution.

Border and Immigration Agency: Information Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* national and *(b)* regional press officers were employed by the Border and Immigration Agency and its predecessor, the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, in each of the last 10 years. [158700]

Mr. Byrne: Between 2000 and 2004, one Chief Immigration Officer was usually attached to the Home Office press office as part of a rolling secondment programme.

In 2004, the secondment programme was discontinued and instead IND funded until January 2007 the salary of an additional permanent Government information officer based in the Home Office press office to work on immigration issues.

Since February 2007, IND/BIA has funded the salaries of three Government information officers based in the Home Office press office.

BIA has since April 2007 funded the recruitment and appointment of five new information officers and one senior information officer to work to each of the regional directors.

Consultants: Costs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which private consultancy firms *(a)* her Department and *(b)* agencies which report to her Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155899]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes and where more cost-effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is allocated across a very wide range of firms, ranging from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organisations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU procurement regulations based on best value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants in the Home Office provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skills, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available to it. Some of the expenditure is on consultants to whom we have outsourced services, such as IT.

The information held by the Home Department on its spend on consultancy and professional legal services is as follows:

2004-05: centrally held data are not available on a like-for-like basis, owing to a change in financial recording systems in that period.

2005-06: consultancy: £137 million; legal; £21 million: total: £158 million.

2006-07: consultancy: £148 million; legal: £28 million; total: £176 million.

2007-08: during the current financial year, the Home Department is refining and improving its approach to the management of consultancy spend including a more rigorous demand management and approval process. Year to date figures indicate a reduction in spend which we are forecasting to be maintained throughout the current financial year.

The breakdown across agencies and the Department are as follows.

A breakdown of expenditure by engagement by company is not held centrally and to attempt to assemble it would incur disproportionate cost. The top 10 companies by total expenditure across the Home Office in the last three years are as follows. The

companies are listed in alphabetical order; the amount spent with each company is not shown on grounds of commercial confidentiality.

Table 1: Home Department expenditure with consultancy companies for 2005-06 and 2006-07

	Borders and Immigration Agency	*Home Office*	*Identity and Passport Service*	*Total*
2005-06				
Consultancy	54	74	9	137
Legal	17	4	0	21
Total	71	78	9	158
2006-07				
Consultancy	44	74	30	148
Legal	23	5	0	28
Total	67	79	30	176

Top 10 companies by total expenditure across the Home Office in the last three years

Cap Gemini
Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Deloitte
Drivers Jonas
Hedra BearingPoint
IBM
LogicaCMG
PA Consulting Group
Parity Resources
Siemens Business Services Ltd.

Detention Centres: Hunger Strikes

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many detainees in immigration detention centres went on hunger strike in each of the last five years; [154572]

(2) what guidance has been issued to immigration detention centres on how to deal with those on hunger strike. [154573]

Jacqui Smith: We only record detainees who have refused to eat the meals provided. The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

It is normal procedure to place a detainee on a missed meals log if they have missed four consecutive meals, not including breakfast, as this allows staff to monitor their health and welfare to ensure they receive appropriate treatment where necessary.

Detention Services Order 07-2004 was issued to immigration removal centres on how to deal with those on hunger strike. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the timetable for the UK's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking of Human Beings. [158533]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are determined to ratify the Convention as soon as we can but are determined to get the arrangements right before doing so. We need to be compliant with the Convention before formal ratification. Some of the other signatories to the Convention have legal systems that allow or require ratification before implementation—ours does not. The UK is already largely compliant with the Convention but some amendments to primary/secondary legislation will be required, as will the development of guidance and the institution of new processes. A dedicated project team within the Border and Immigration Agency is leading delivery of the changes needed to comply with the Convention and is reporting regularly to a cross-government official project board and Ministerial Group. Action against trafficking is continuing and is not on hold pending ratification. During the ongoing, police-led anti-trafficking operation, Pentameter 2 we are piloting an identification process and a 30-day reflection period, as required by Article 10 and 13 of the Convention.

Forensic Science Service

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to re-organise the Government's Forensic Service. [157533]

Meg Hillier: The Forensic Science Service was an Executive agency of the Home Office until December 2005 when it was vested as a Government-owned limited company (GovCo). In accordance with commitments given to Parliament in March 2006, I am currently considering whether there should be a further change of status, and if so, what that status should be. I hope to be in a position to make an in principle decision by the end of the year.

Immigration Officers: Airports

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to increase the number of staff on duty at immigration counters at UK airports. [158536]

Mr. Byrne: We are currently recruiting 118 additional immigration officers at UK airports.

We deploy staff based on published flight schedules and anticipated passenger loads as this is the most effective way to ensure prudent spending of public money. We do not allocate resources based on the number of desks a port operator makes available as this would lead to staff being completely unoccupied for significant periods of their working day. We take a number of measures at peak times to ensure that maximum numbers of staff are available.

This year these measures include:

The re-deployment of mobile search teams to the front-line;

The re-deployment of staff from support functions such as passenger caseworking

Legislation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criminal offences have been created by each Act sponsored by her Department since May 1997. [156309]

Jacqui Smith: In the period since 1997, the Home Office has had responsibility for a wide range of subjects, including electoral law, data protection, licensing, police, prisons, criminal law and criminal justice, as well as immigration, serious crime and terrorism, and brought forward legislation on these issues as appropriate. In some cases, the legislation created new offences; in other cases, it re-enacted, or gave statutory form to, existing offences, sometimes with modifications to their extent or scope.

A list of all criminal offences created in all Acts sponsored by the Home Office since 1997 is not held centrally, and could be produced only at disproportionate cost in time and resources.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 9 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Larry Allen. [156904]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 11 October 2007.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 6 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. M. Sultan. [156905]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 September 2007.

Police: South West Region

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government funding provision was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita for police services in (i) Devon and Cornwall and (ii) England and Wales in each year since 1979. [156359]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested where available is set out in the following table.

Information from before 1995-96 is unreliable due to the changed structures of police authorities.

We do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of socio-demographic data to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative resources of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping changes to limit year-on-year variations. Devon and Cornwall actually receives £1.9 million more than it would on a strict application of the funding formula.

Government funding provision for police services from 1995-96 to 2006-07

£ million

	Police authority	
Funding provision	*Devon and Cornwall*	*England and Wales*[1]
Government grant[2, 3]		
1995-96	122.92	5,538.60
1996-97	129.31	5,746.29
1997-98	132.97	5,861.23
1998-99	141.09	6,050.55
1999-2000	146.70	6,185.59
2000-01	152.88	4,737.60
2001-02	163.44	5,038.79
2002-03	167.49	5,173.15
2003-04	174.26	5,548.65
2004-05	180.29	5,770.08
2005-06	189.16	6,075.37
Government grant[2, 3, 4]		
2006-07	190.95	6,215.54
2007-08	199.38	6,425.25

[1] The data for Metropolitan Police Authority from 2000-01 onwards are not available as they are collected as consolidated data from GLA.

[2] Revenue funding includes all grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.

[3] Welsh Government Grant includes Home Office Police Grant, floor funding and additional support provided to ensure Welsh police authorities receive at least a minimum in grant in line with English authorities.

[4] 2006-07 Government grant figures are provisional outturn figures. 2007-08 figures are budget figures.

Source:
DCLG—English Police Authorities/WAG—Welsh Police Authorities. Population figures sourced by DCLG from ONS (2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are projected).

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the gross revenue expenditure for police authorities per capita was in *(a)* Devon and Cornwall and *(b)* England and Wales in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [156360]

Mr. McNulty: We do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of socio-demographic data to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative resources of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping changes to limit year-on-year variations. Devon and Cornwall actually receives £1.9 million more than it would on a strict application of the funding formula.

Gross revenue expenditure per capita 2005-06 to 2007-08

	Devon and Cornwall	*England and Wales*
2005-06	177.76	234.20
2006-07	164.37	230.77
2007-08	174.83	234.53

Source:
Gross Revenue Expenditure—Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Police Statistics (Estimates for 2006-07 and 2007-08) Resident Population—Department for Communities and Local Government.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, to question 149263, on work permits,

if she will give a breakdown of the 20 non-EU nationalities receiving the most work permits for (i) doctors and (ii) nurses in each of the last 10 years. [158339]

Mr. Byrne: The tables show the number of approved work permit applications that were issued to the top 20 non-EU nationality recipients of work permits (and others) for (i) doctors (table 1) and (ii) nurses (table 2) during the period 1999 to 2006. Data for 1997 and 1998 are not available. There have been no approvals for auxiliary nurses during this period.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Table 1: work permits issued to doctors in the top 20 non-EU countries from 1999-2006

Non-EU state	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
India	60	200	610	955	1,585	2,325	2,060	1,740	9,535
South Africa	40	95	370	1,005	755	565	300	265	3,390
Pakistan	15	60	140	215	290	475	425	375	1,995
China Peoples Republic of	5	40	110	140	170	160	200	215	1,040
Egypt	10	20	100	115	115	120	85	85	655
Nigeria	5	30	55	65	80	95	100	125	550
Sri Lanka	*	*	20	55	65	110	110	120	485
Australia	*	10	60	75	85	80	60	65	435
Malaysia	*	5	20	55	55	65	75	135	405
Libya	5	20	35	55	60	45	50	30	300
Syrian Arab Republic	0	5	25	30	55	55	55	40	265
Myanmar	0	*	15	15	55	50	75	35	255
Trinidad and Tobago	*	5	20	35	45	45	30	40	230
Sudan	5	15	20	35	45	45	35	30	230
Iran	0	0	5	10	20	40	40	55	170
New Zealand	0	5	25	25	30	20	15	15	135
Bangladesh	5	5	10	20	20	20	20	30	125
Jordan	*	0	5	10	20	30	30	30	125
Zimbabwe	0	*	5	15	20	30	25	20	120
Iraq	5	5	5	10	25	15	25	30	120
Others	10	65	145	180	230	295	255	350	1,525
Total	170	580	1,805	3,120	3,820	4,690	4,070	3,830	22,090

* = Indicates one or two.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Table 2: work permits issued to nurses in the top 20 non-EU countries from 1999-2006

Non-EU state	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
Philippines	575	6,760	10,440	11,145	10,960	8,875	4,870	2,840	56,460
India	70	915	2,790	3,935	5,475	7,265	7,230	4,440	32,120
South Africa	415	1,755	2,750	3,410	3,365	2,895	2,010	1,135	17,730
Zimbabwe	275	1,165	1,915	2,700	2,730	2,980	2,330	1,610	15,705
Nigeria	250	925	1,165	1,720	1,335	1,345	1,165	600	8,505
Ghana	50	310	530	635	770	745	650	290	3,980
Australia	80	505	620	555	530	440	370	300	3,400
Pakistan	10	85	410	455	415	515	515	290	2,700
Mauritius	55	200	320	375	430	460	350	175	2,365
Zambia	25	150	345	430	430	385	350	195	2,315
Trinidad and Tobago	165	440	390	360	310	255	190	110	2,215
Kenya	20	115	275	395	385	390	255	145	1,980
Jamaica	85	320	310	260	190	220	240	145	1,775
New Zealand	45	235	285	265	220	180	115	85	1,430
Guyana	10	35	80	120	160	295	225	180	1,110
China Peoples Republic of	5	60	105	90	130	160	130	105	790
Botswana	*	35	115	110	105	125	140	70	705
Malawi	10	40	95	115	120	115	125	70	700

Table 2: work permits issued to nurses in the top 20 non-EU countries from 1999-2006

Non-EU state	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
Malaysia	40	140	135	120	75	70	60	40	685
Nepal	5	15	45	70	90	155	150	150	680
Others	235	925	1,230	1,465	1,370	1,305	1,200	705	8,435
Total	2,430	15,130	24,355	28,740	29,590	29,180	22,670	13,685	165,780

* = Indicates one or two.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Leader of the House what contingency preparations her Office made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs of those preparations were. [156995]

Helen Goodman: The guidance covering the conduct of official business during a general election was last issued in May 2005. This guidance, and other relevant procedures and processes, are kept under constant review by the Cabinet Office and other relevant departments so that they are ready to be put in place when a general election is called.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are entitled to the council tax exemption on his Department's homes. [158109]

Derek Twigg: Based on current deployment numbers, it is estimated that some 3,000 Service personnel with Service Families Accommodation will initially be eligible for the council tax relief payment, increasing to some 5,000 next year when the relief will cover those on operational deployments beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces will be entitled to the new council tax discount on homes not owned by his Department for troops serving abroad. [158110]

Derek Twigg: Based on current deployment numbers, it is estimated that some 5,000 Service personnel with private accommodation will initially be eligible for the council tax relief payment, increasing to some 7,500 next year when the relief will cover those on operational deployments beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to increase the level of the discount for members of the armed forces serving abroad on operational duty each year in line with council tax inflation. [158111]

Derek Twigg: The level of payment will be updated annually based on the average council tax per dwelling in England.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the council tax rebate for serving personnel in the armed forces will come into effect. [158615]

Derek Twigg: Payments will be made from 1 April 2008 and will cover deployments from 1 October 2007.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what units down to company level formed the Spearhead Land Element in 2005. [158394]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Spearhead Land Element was rostered, during 2005, as follows:

Unit	*Dates*
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles	1 January to 5 March
1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets (now 2nd Battalion The Rifles)	5 March to 7 July
1st Battalion The Green Howards (now 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment)	7 July to 1 December
2nd Battalion The Light Infantry (now part of The Rifles)	1 December to 31 December

The Spearhead Land Element is a battalion size commitment. It is up to each battalion to manage this commitment between its available companies or sub units.

Armed Forces: Housing

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has had from former service personnel groups regarding the supply of affordable housing; and if he will make a statement. [155833]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations lead on social housing matters but the Ministry of Defence is in regular contact with them on veterans' housing issues. As Minister for Veterans, I have frequent contact with ex-service organisations. Various initiatives to reduce the risk of homelessness among service leavers and veterans have been discussed but neither my officials nor I recall the specific subject of the supply of affordable housing being raised. The Joint Services Housing Advice Office provides practical advice on access to affordable housing to current armed forces personnel and those who are soon to leave the services.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of members of the armed forces who served on the front line in each of the last five years received bonus payments in each of those years; what the *(a)* amount of bonuses paid and *(b)* largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [157426]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Members of the armed forces do not receive bonus payments as part of their basic pay package. However all personnel who meet the eligibility criteria are paid the tax free Operational Allowance. The tax free Operational Allowance was effective from 1 April 2006 and came into payment in November 2006.

The amount of the largest single payment is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For financial year 2006-07 35,983 armed forces personnel received payment of the Operational Allowance, totalling £44.77 million. As a proportion of the strength of the armed forces at 1 April 2006 this represents about 18 per cent.

For financial year 2007-08 to 30 September 2007,28,114 armed forces personnel received payment of the Operational Allowance, totalling £14.13 million. As a proportion of the provisional strength of the armed forces at 1 April 2007 this represents about 15 per cent. The marked difference in value between financial year 2006-07 and financial year 2007-08 to date is due to a smaller entitled population and a number of payments being made in advance at the end of financial year 2006-07, prior to closedown of the system for army implementation of JPA.

Army: Officers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers in the Army are surplus to requirement; and what plans there are to reduce this number. [158372]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officer strength is measured against the April 2008 Regular Army Liability (RAL), and on 1 March 2007, a surplus of 628 was recorded. However, the RAL only accounts for permanent posts, and there are currently more than 1,000 temporary posts for officers in addition to the RAL total for other requirements including support to operations. Therefore, even taking account of the RAL surplus, the total officer requirement is not being met and, as a result, there are currently no plans to reduce officer numbers.

Ballistic Missile Defence: USA

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions his Department has had with the US Administration on plans to develop missile silos and x-band radar on land or sea bases in the UK; [158620]

(2) what discussions he and officials from his Department have had with the US Administration on plans to site interceptor missiles or related equipment in the UK. [158621]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Ministry of Defence continues to discuss ballistic missile defence issues with the US Administration. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations. As I set out in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report* column 72WS, we have no plans to site missile interceptors in the UK.

Defence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on *(a)* European Security and Defence Policy and *(b)* NATO. [154253]

Des Browne: I attended the Bastille Day celebrations in Paris on 14 July, where I met the French Defence Minister for bilateral discussions. I also had the opportunity to meet him at the end of September in the course of the EU Defence Ministers' informal meeting in Portugal.

On both occasions we discussed a range of issues, including the European Security and Defence Policy and NATO.

Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Ministers from his Department attended the defence systems and equipment international exhibition in September. [158778]

Des Browne: The Minister for the armed forces and the Minister for defence equipment and support each visited the 2007 defence systems and equipment international exhibition in London in September.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the 1 July DASA figures under TSP04 published on 25 August did not include the Army. [157161]

Derek Twigg: Army personnel figures at 1 July 2007 were not published on 23 August due to ongoing data validation from the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. This is necessary to ensure the statistics are of the quality required of a National Statistics output.

Figures for the total strength of the Army at 1 July 2007 will be published in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1: Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces, on 19 October 2007. Detailed statistics relating to Army personnel at 1 July 2007 and 1 October 2007 will be published in TSP 4: Quarterly Press Release, on 22 November 2007.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157863]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally.

Diego Garcia: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 604W, on Diego Garcia: USA, if he will list the occasions in each year from 1979 to date when the US has sought approval for operations they wished to undertake from the island. [155373]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The 1966 UK/US Exchange of Notes requires the US to seek prior approval at the highest political level for any offensive action by the US from their base at Diego Garcia. It is a matter of record that the UK approved US offensive action from Diego Garcia in support of operations in Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. However, I am withholding a full list of the occasions when the US has sought such approval as the release of such information would, or would be likely to, prejudice our international relations.

Ex-servicemen: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on requiring local authorities to accept applications from members of HM armed forces for social housing on leaving the services; and if he will make a statement. [157785]

Derek Twigg: The Secretaries of State of both Departments met on 14 May 2007 to discuss the issue of 'local connection' in the allocation of social housing.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and I announced through a written statement on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 108WS that the Government will be amending the housing legislation at the earliest opportunity to ensure that service personnel are put on an equal footing with others applying for an allocation of social housing. MOD and CLG officials continue to work closely on the issue.

Helicopters: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total budget was for all helicopter procurement projects in each year since 2001. [157046]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The in-year budgets for all helicopter procurement projects for each completed year from financial year 2001-02 to 2006-07 are:

FY	*£ million*
2001-02	842
2002-03	524
2003-04	318
2004-05	257
2005-06	260
2006-07	209

These figures exclude funding for emergent urgent requirements and some commodity items bought in support of these projects.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of British service personnel in Iraq are accommodated in tents. [154439]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Approximately two-thirds of UK service personnel in Iraq are currently accommodated in tents. The tents are protected against direct and indirect attack, with either HESCO bastion or breeze block walls, and are air conditioned, heated and equipped with full sanitation facilities.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army have been killed in operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2003. [158377]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of 30 September 2007, four members of the Territorial Army and one Regular Reservist have been killed on operations in Iraq since 2003. Over the same period, two members of the Territorial Army have been killed on operations in Afghanistan.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the *(a)* 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles, *(b)* 1st Battalion the Royal Green Jackets and *(c)* 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment were deployed on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007. [158393]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The battalions in question operationally deployed, between 2004 and 2007, are as follows:

Unit	*Deployment*	*Date*
1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles	Operation Herrick 7 (Afghanistan)	From October 2007
1st Battalion the Royal Green Jackets (now 2nd Battalion the Rifles)	Operation Telic 9 (Iraq)	November 2006 to March 2007
2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment	Operation Telic 7	November 2005 to May 2006

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what coalition policy is on seeking agreements with militias in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [158446]

Des Browne: It is coalition policy to engage with any group that is interested in joining Iraq's democratic process and reducing violence.

Meteorological Office: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by the Meteorological Office. [154344]

Derek Twigg: The Meteorological Office currently employs four full-time and one part-time press officers.

All may deal with other communications issues, including internal communication or marketing tasks.

Military Exercises

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military exercises were cancelled in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and what the reasons were for cancelling each exercise. [158362]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During financial year 2004-05, a total of 379 training events were scheduled in the Defence exercise programme (DXP) of which 79 (20 per cent.) were cancelled. While specific reasons for cancellation are not available in many cases, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, the programme was affected by competing operational priorities. Since that time, improved data capture has enabled a more detailed review of the DXP.

During financial year 2005-06, a total of 533 training events were scheduled in the DXP of which 58 (10.8 per cent.) were cancelled. 30 exercises were cancelled due to operational commitments, 13 were removed as savings measures and 10 were cancelled by other nations. The remaining five events were cancelled in response to changing priorities or rescheduling.

In financial year 2006-07, a total of 699 training events were scheduled in the DXP of which 69 (9.8 per cent.) were cancelled. 35 exercises were cancelled due to operational commitments, five were removed as savings measures and 14 were cancelled by other nations. The remaining 15 events were cancelled in response to changing priorities or rescheduling.

Details of the military exercises cancelled between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2007 are set out in the following table.

Exercise name	*Location*	*Type*	*Reason for cancellation*
Exercises cancelled in financial year 2005-06			
1 Div CT5 Ex	Poland	Land	Operational commitments
3 Div CT5 Ex	UK	Land	Operational commitments
AIR CADRE 06-1	Cyprus	Joint	Revised priorities
AIR WARRIOR 05-10 PX	USA	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
ASWEX 05	UK	Air	Operational commitments
BALTOPS 05	Baltic	Air	Operational commitments
BASS ROCK	Canada	Land	Cancelled by lead nation
CATT 05	UK	Land	Operational priorities
CROSS CHECK 05	Canada	Air	Operational commitments
CYGNET GOLD	France	Land	Cancelled due to MOU issues
CZECH PINEAPPLE	Czech Republic	Land	Operational commitments
DANEX	Denmark/North Sea	Maritime	Savings measure
DRUIDS DANCE	UK	Land	Savings measure
EAGLES FLIGHT 06	UK	Air	Rescheduled as EAGLES EYE 06
EAGLES RESOLVE	UK	Land	Operational commitments
EAGLES RESOLVE-Air	UK	Air	Operational commitments
FIDAE 06	Chile	Air	Operational commitments;
FINGALS CAVE	Canada	Land	Operational commitments
FLOTEX SILVER	Norway	Maritime	Savings measure
FLYCATCHER 05-2	UK	Joint	Revised priorities.
FWIT05	Norway	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
GRUFLEX 05	Spain	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
INITIAL LINK 05	Bahrain	Air	Rescheduled
IRON ANVIL 05	Canada	Air	Operational commitments
JOINT FALCON 06	UK	Air	Operational commitments
JTP 05-5	UK	Air	Operational commitments
KIMMONS POST	Cyprus	Land	Operational commitments
KLEIBER	France	Land	Operational commitments
LEMON PEEL 05-2	UK	Joint	Operational commitments
LONE CHEETAH 05	France	Air	Savings measure
LONE CIVET 05	Europe General	Air	Savings measure
LONE EAGLE 05	Spain	Air	Savings measure
LONE EGRET 05	Slovakia	Air	Savings measure
LONE FEAT 05	Europe General	Air	Savings measure
LONE FLAP 05	Norway	Air	Savings measure
LONE KESTREL 05	Poland	Air	Cancelled by lead nation

Exercise name	*Location*	*Type*	*Reason for cancellation*
LONE KITE 05	Europe General	Air	Savings measure
LONE KNOT 05	Europe General	Air	Savings measure
LONE OSPREY 05	Ukraine	Air	Cancelled due insufficient time to resolve Ukrainian requirements
LUCKY SENTINEL 05	Canada	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
MEDICINE MAN	BATUS Canada	Land	Savings measure
MEDOC	UK	Land	Operational commitments
NOMAD 05	UK	Air	Cancelled due to withdrawal of 3 nations
PATHFINDER	Czech Republic	Land	Cancelled by mutual consent: operational commitments
QUICKSAND 05	Africa	Joint	Operational commitments
RED CORVETTE 06	UK	Joint	Revised priorities
SMART SEARCH 05	USA	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
SNOW CHUTE 06	Norway	Air	Operational commitments
SNOW GOOSE 05-2	Norway	Air	Savings measure
SNOW LEOPARD 06	Norway	Air	Operational priorities
SWORDFISH 05	Mediterranean	Air	Operational commitments
TARGET FLAME 05-3	Cyprus	Air	Operational priorities (OPEVAL)
TEMPLAR FORGE 05-1	Cyprus	Air	Operational commitments
TEMPLAR FORGE 05-2	Cyprus	Air	Operational commitments
TEMPLAR FORGE 05-3	Cyprus	Air	Operational commitments
TRIDENT DOOR 05	Mediterranean	Air	Operational commitments
WYCOMBE WARRIOR 05-07 day 1	UK	Air	Operational commitments
WYCOMBE WARRIOR 05-07 day 2	UK	Air	Operational commitments
Exercises cancelled in financial year 2006-07			
1 ACC WTI 06	North America	Air	Operational commitments
AATTC06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
AIRLIFT RODEO 06	North America	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
ALBERT'S RAPPORT 06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
ALBERT'S RAPPORT 06-2	North America	Air	Operational commitments
ALGONQUIN ROCK 06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
ANATOLIAN EAGLE 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by host nation
APHRODITE 06/07	Cyprus	Land	Revised priorities
AQUATIC ADVENTURE	UK	Joint	Revised priorities
ASSEGAI EYES 06	United Kingdom	Joint	Operational commitments
ASTERIX 2-06/07	FR/UK	Land	Operational commitments
ASTERIX 3-06/07	FR/UK	Land	Operational commitments
BALD EAGLE 06/07	USA	Land	Revised priorities
BARBARY AIR 06-2	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
BLUE CYPRIOT	Cyprus	Land	Operational commitments
COCKFIGHT 2/06	UK	Joint	Operational commitments
COMBINED STRENGTH 06-1	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
COSSACK STEPPE 06/07	Ukraine	Land	Cancelled due to insufficient time to resolve Ukrainian requirements
CYPRUS FORUM 06	Cyprus	Joint	Revised priorities
CZECH PINEAPPLE 06	Czech Rep	Land	Operational commitments
DAPEX 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by host nation
DRAGONS NEST 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
EAGLES EYE 06/07	UK	Land	Operational commitments
ETAM 06	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
EXPRESS THREE 06/07 (RUSSIAN EXPRESS 06)	Russia	Land	Cancelled due to coordination issues with host nation
FINGALS CAVE 06/07	Canada	Land	Cancelled by host nation
FLYING RAPPORT 06	North America	Air	Operational commitments
FROZEN STAR 07	Norway	Air	Revised priorities
FWIT06	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
GAULISH 1-06/07	France/UK	Land	Operational commitments
GAULISH 2/06	Not Specified	Land	Operational commitments
GAULISH 4-06/07	France/UK	Land	Operational commitments
GAULISH 5-06/07	France/UK	Land	Operational commitments
GLOBAL GOLD 07/08	Kenya	Land	Operational commitments

Exercise name	Location	Type	Reason for cancellation
GRAND PRIX 1-06/07	Kenya	Land	Savings measure
GRAND PRIX 3-06/07	Kenya	Land	Savings measure
HEAVY FERRY 06/07	Germany	Land	Revised priorities
JAGGED FLAME 06-1	Europe	Air	Savings measure
JAVELIN 06/07	Nepal	Land	Revised priorities
JRTC06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
JTP 2-06/07	UK	Land	Operational commitments
KELP FIRE 05/06	Falklands	Joint	Operational priorities
LION STAR 1-07/08	Cyprus	Land	Savings measure
LOG PROVIDER 06	United kingdom	Joint	Revised priorities
LONE FIN 07	Europe	Air	Revised priorities
LONE FLAP 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
LONE FOIL	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
LONE FRAME 06-1	Rest of World	Air	Rescheduled
LONE KNOT 06	Europe	Air	Postponed by lead nation
LRIF06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
MAPLE FLAG 39-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
MAPLE FLAG 39-3	North America	Air	Operational commitments
NIGHT HAWK 2/06	Denmark	Joint	Operational commitments
NOBLE AVENGER 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by host nation
PAPER CHASE 06/07	Germany	Land	Operational commitments
PATH FINDER 06/07	Czech Rep	Land	Operational commitments
PRAIRIE BRAVE 06/07	Canada	Land	Operational commitments
RAINBOW SERPENT 06/07	Australia	Land	Ex reduced in scope due to Australian operational commitments
READINESS CHALLENGE 06/07	USA	Land	Cancelled by lead nation
ROCK CHALLENGE	USA	Joint	Savings measure
SNOW FALCON 07-1	Europe	Air	Revised priorities
SOLENZARA AIR EX 06	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
SPONTEX06-1	Europe	Air	Revised priorities
TARGET FLAME 06-3	Europe	Air	Revised priorities
TRIPLEX FLAME 06.1	Europe	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
TUNUK WARRIOR 06/07	Turkey	Land	Cancelled by lead nation
TWENTY SEVENTH SHOT 05/06	Gibraltar	Land	Operational commitments
WET GAP 06/07	Germany	Land	Revised priorities
WYCOMBE WARRIOR 09-06 Days 1 and 2	United Kingdom	Air	Cancelled by NATO

NATO Rapid Reaction Corps

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military units form the UK's current commitment to the NATO Response Force. [158395]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The NATO Response Force is a high-readiness reaction force which comprises four elements (maritime, land, air and special forces) to which allies contribute forces on a six-month rotating basis. The UK is providing the Maritime Component Command for the current rotation of the NATO Response Force (July 2007 to January 2008). The UK forces supporting the Maritime Component Command are drawn, as required, from the Joint Rapid Reaction Force and comprise a carrier group with associated air and surface assets, amphibious forces, naval mine counter measures units, and auxiliary support vessels. In addition, the UK is making some air-to-air refuelling and in-theatre lift assets available to the Air Component Command.

Nuclear Weapons: Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether in-house provision of the service for the road transport of nuclear weapons by HM Naval Base Clyde is still under consideration. [157795]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are not proposing to pursue that option. The operation will remain with AWE plc for the foreseeable future.

Reserve Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many volunteer reservists in each service are deployed on operations. [157044]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 31 August 2007 (the latest figures available), the number of volunteer reservists deployed on operations was:

	Royal Navy Reserve	Royal Marines Reserve	Territorial Army	Royal Auxiliary Air Force
Telic (Iraq)	26	9	169	66
Herrick (Afghanistan)	6	0	397	45
Oculus (Balkans)	1	0	15	0

	Royal Navy Reserve	Royal Marines Reserve	Territorial Army	Royal Auxiliary Air Force
Sierra Leone and Democratic Republic of Congo	0	0	0	0
Global Counter Terrorism	0	0	6	0
Total	33	9	587	111

In addition, there were 627 reservists mobilised on pre-deployment training, receiving medical treatment, or on post-operational leave.

Territorial Army: Training

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of training days per year was for members of the Territorial Army in each year since 2003. [158378]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Historically, TA pay has been sufficient to meet the demand for trained TA manpower to support current operations; and for all TA officers and soldiers to train to a level that allows them to be 'certified efficient' and qualify for Bounty. Current levels of Territorial Army (TA) pay permit approximately 41 training days per person per year.

War Pensions

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former members of the Merchant Marine have been awarded a war pension. [158439]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not available, but figures are available for the number of former members of the merchant marine in receipt of pensions under the War Pensions Mercantile Marine scheme over the past five years. This information is set out in the following table.

War Pensions in payment under the Mercantile Marine scheme[1]

	Disablement pensioners
30 June 2003	1,360
30 June 2004	1,205
30 June 2005	1,090
30 June 2006	980
30 June 2007	855

[1] All numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Doha Trade Talks

8. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the Doha development round of international trade talks. [158524]

Mr. Thomas: Negotiations on all aspects of the Doha Development Agenda continue to take place at the WTO in Geneva. The UK Government remain fully committed to working with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other WTO members to secure an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha round.

Women's Education and Economic Performance

9. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the links between education on sexual health for women in developing countries and the economic performance of the country concerned. [158525]

Mr. Malik: Little research has been commissioned or evaluated on the link between education on sexual health for women and overall economic performance.

It is known and accepted that there is a strong link between education for women and overall economic performance in a country. It is also generally assumed that education on sexual health for women leads to better health outcomes. We are funding an evaluation of an adolescent sexual health intervention in Tanzania which will provide important new knowledge on how best to deliver education on sexual health to achieve better health.

Zimbabwe

10. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [158526]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe is deteriorating. An estimated 4.1 million people will need food aid by year end. Malnutrition has reached emergency levels in places. Urban water and sanitation collapse is causing disease outbreaks. HIV/AIDS remains rife.

DFID is providing life-saving humanitarian assistance until the policy environment improves. We contributed an additional £8 million to the World Food Programme recently which will feed two million people for two months.

12. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [158528]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) and the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) today (UIN 158522 and 158523).

Climate Change

11. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help the poorest countries address the adverse impacts of climate change. [158527]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is adapting its development programmes in countries to take account of the adverse impacts of climate change and is assisting Multilateral Development Banks and UNDP to also do so.

Burma

13. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Burma. [158529]

Mr. Malik: A third of Burma's population lives below the poverty line. Severe economic mismanagement has deprived Burma of the economic growth enjoyed by its south-east Asian neighbours, and investment in public services has been minimal. The brutal suppression of recent demonstrations against economic hardship has exacerbated humanitarian conditions. DFID is providing £1 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs in Burma, in addition to £8 million already planned for this year.

Ethiopia

14. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia. [158530]

Mr. Malik: A United Nations team made an assessment of the situation at the beginning of September, and concluded that there was no major humanitarian crisis in the Somali (Ogaden) region although humanitarian conditions within conflict areas were deteriorating, and there was an urgent need for food and medical supplies, and help with water and sanitation.

DFID and the other donors are working with the Ethiopian government and the United Nations to ensure that humanitarian assistance will be delivered to those who need it.

Corruption

15. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the Government's policies for combating corruption in aid recipient countries. [158531]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Corruption is a serious threat to development. DFID's policy is to build effective states that promote development and invest significantly in efforts to address corruption and improve governance.

DFID regards anti-corruption as a priority and discusses this with partner Governments when agreeing and reviewing its Country Assistance Plans. These plans are informed by a comprehensive governance analysis and assessment of local priorities.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to increase accessibility of health care in developing countries. [158296]

Mr. Malik: DFID's strategy "Working Together for Better Health", published in June 2007 sets out our approach to support developing countries to improve the health of their people and reaching the Millennium Development Goals. This is to deliver more resources for health; to expand access to basic health services; to improve the effectiveness of international funding for health; and to demonstrate results and build the evidence base of what works.

Our spending on health has doubled since 2002-03. About 15 per cent. of our aid goes to health, a total of £800 million in 2006-07. Overall, the UK is the second largest donor to health. Most of this help is directed through our country programmes. For example, in Bangladesh, DFID is the largest supporter of the health sector donor pooled fund. Immunisation coverage has reached 80 per cent. for the five vaccine-preventable diseases and infant mortality is down from 116 to 88 (1994-2004).

The International Health Partnership, launched by the Prime Minister on 5 September, will help ensure that increasing resources are used more effectively to strengthen health systems and deliver better care and services. In bringing together international agencies, major donors and partner countries, it will work to make sure health services better meet individual country needs.

Developing Countries: Natural Disasters

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to minimise the impact of natural disasters in developing countries. [158295]

Mr. Malik: DFID's policy on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)[1] is to support measures to prevent and mitigate the impact of natural disasters at the global, country and community level. At the global level, DFID is supporting DRR programmes through the Geneva-based UN International Strategy for DRR, the World Bank, the ProVention Consortium of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the International Federation of Red Cross Societies. DFID is also supporting the community-level DRR work of five NGOs.

DFID's support for DRR through its regional programmes includes the Chars Livelihoods Programme in Bangladesh, which has helped raise 32,700 households on plinths above the flood level; the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility, to enable Governments to jump-start recovery efforts after disasters; and an NGO Consortium for DRR in Niger, which aims to strengthen vulnerable communities. Following the Government's commitment to allocate up to 10 per cent. of each emergency response to a natural disaster to DRR, where appropriate, DFID is supporting DRR in Indonesia; the Indian Ocean Early Warning System; UN capacity-building in climate adaptation; and the World Health Organisation Disease Early Warning System and institutional capacity-building in Pakistan.

[1] See DFID's policy paper 'Reducing the Risk of Disasters—Helping to Achieve Sustainable Poverty Reduction in a Vulnerable World'. ISBN 186192 751 7 (deposited in the Libraries of the House).

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid and assistance has been provided by his Department for development in Palestine. [158631]

Mr. Malik: DFID has provided over £380 million in assistance to Palestinians since the Oslo peace accords were signed in 1994. For 2007-08, we have made £31.6 million available. Of this, we have provided £1 million to the Red Cross for humanitarian work; £3 million to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) and £15.6 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). On 17 July, the Secretary of State for International Development announced a £3 million contribution to help the Palestinian Authority pay off its debts to the private sector.

DFID provides technical assistance to Palestinian institutions, including the Office of the President, the Negotiations Affairs Department and the Ministry of Finance. We are launching a £3 million initiative to help Palestinian businesses compete in new markets and increase their exports. Together with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, we work to reduce conflict through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool.

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* officials have had with the United States Administration on its decision to suspend the US contribution to the United Nations Population Fund; and if he will make a statement. [158367]

Mr. Thomas: There have been no discussions between DFID Ministers or officials and the United States Administration on the suspension of the US contribution to UNFPA.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who the British representative is on the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund; and what relevant *(a)* specialist and *(b)* general qualifications and experience he or she has. [158370]

Mr. Thomas: The British representative on the Executive Board of UNFPA is a representative of the UK mission in New York, who acts on behalf of the UK ambassador to the UN. The representatives have specialist skills and qualifications in the areas of health and development as well as general qualifications in economics and international enterprise. The representatives' experience in government ranges from five to 25 years.

There is a strong partnership between colleagues in the UK mission and DFID. The former liaise with DFID on all health and development issues.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Central Office of Information: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in the Central Office of Information Media Monitoring Unit monitor internet blogs; and what the estimated cost of such monitoring is for 2007-08. [158688]

Gillian Merron: At present, the Media Monitoring Unit has no staff monitoring internet blogs and there is, therefore, no cost in 2007-08.

Charity Commission

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment has been made of the impact of the Charities Act on *(a)* the workload and *(b)* the adequacy of funding of the Charity Commission. [155627]

Phil Hope: The Government have considered issues around the work load and resources of the Charity Commission, including obligations arising from the Charities Act 2006. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced the details of the Charity Commission's financial settlement for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 as part of the comprehensive spending review.

	£ million
Resource funding baseline for 2007-08 (pre-CSR announcement)	30.2
New resource funding baseline for 2007-08	31.7
Resource funding for 2008-09	30.9
Resource funding for 2009-10	30.2
Resource funding for 2010-11	29.4

The Commission will receive £0.5 million in recognition of their responsibilities in the Charities Act. This sum has been added to their pre-CSR announcement baseline which also includes the previously announced funding of £1 million to support the implementation of their counter-terrorism strategy.

We are currently in positive discussions with the Commission to discuss ways to fund the new licensing regime for public charitable collections.

Delegation and Coherence

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made in implementation of the policy statement Delegation and Coherence issued by the Cabinet Office in September 2006. [156830]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* Cabinet Office officials continue to work with Departments and the civil service unions to implement the key areas identified in the statement to improve operation of the delegated pay arrangements. Discussions have taken place with Heads of Professions and Departments on greater pay coherence for similar workforce groups; a set of reward principles has been published to inform departmental reward strategies; the Treasury's annual Pay Remit Guidance

has been strengthened to help narrow unjustified pay gaps between Departments; and we are currently considering the scope for improving the delegation process and identifying areas that can be managed more corporately.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153287]

Gillian Merron: On rare occasions, officials may purchase flowers for specific purposes e.g. events, functions but there are strict guidelines in place determining such transactions. Details of expenditure can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many websites the Cabinet Office operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running the Office's websites in the last five years. [157885]

Gillian Merron: There are currently 14 Cabinet Office websites. There were 38 Cabinet Office websites as at 1 January 2005.

As part of the Government's Website Rationalisation strategy (part of the Transformational Government agenda), the Cabinet Office is focusing its internet presence on two websites—the Civil Service site (www.civilservice.gov.uk). and the Cabinet Office site (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk). All other Cabinet Office websites will be closed by March 2012.

Annual website costs (including VAT) are as follows:

Financial year	*Cabinet Office cost (£)*
2006-07	690,000
2005-06	975,000
2004-05	670,000

Website expenditure within the Cabinet Office before 2004-05 is not available. Before this time, budgets for communication activity (including website development and maintenance) were devolved to Cabinet Office business units, and there was no central monitoring of web expenditure.

The Cabinet Office was responsible for the Directgov website until April 2006, when it transferred to the Central Office of Information. Excluding one-off marketing and infrastructure renewal costs, expenditure for Directgov was £5.4 million in 2005-06 and £5.4 million in 2004-05. Prior to 2004-05, Directgov was funded from within the UKOnline budget which was the responsibility of the former Office of the e-Envoy and it has not been possible to obtain financial information for this period.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by the Cabinet Office has received since 1 January 2007. [157886]

Gillian Merron: Based on statistics, the website with the most hits was the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway (www.careers.civil-service.gov.uk) which from 1 January to the end of August received:

23,612,818 hits

7,940,377 page views

948,502 visits

Based on statistics, the website with the least hits was the HM Government website (www.hmg.gov.uk) which since it was set up on 9 April received:

30,682 hits

7,055 page views

3,598 visits

"Hits" can be a misleading statistic as, depending on how a website is designed and managed, an individual looking at a single page can generate a widely varying number of "hits". Statistics of "Page Views" and "Visits" are generally accepted as a more accurate representation of website usage.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have been appointed to his Department outside of civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153292]

Gillian Merron: The only appointments that fall outside civil service grades in the Cabinet Office are those made using fee-paid contracts. The number of fee-paid appointments made during the period 27 June 2007 to 26 July 2007 is six.

In addition, my Department publishes information annually on appointments to the public bodies for which it is responsible. Data for 2006-07 are in the process of being collated, and will be published shortly on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk

Copies will also be placed in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

Departments: Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on Departments: publications, if he will place in the Library a copy of the July 2007 edition of the Central Office of Information's White Book. [153889]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the July 2007 edition of the Central Office of Information's White Book. [158188]

Gillian Merron: The publication of the White Book is being prepared to reflect the changes in departmental boundaries and responsibilities.

The new edition will be published and placed in the Library next month.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of construction of the facilities required to stage the Olympic shooting events at the Royal Artillery Barracks; and if she will make a statement; [154847]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost of staging the shooting events for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley. [154848]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Outline assessments during the bid phase were conducted on the basis of providing the overlay required to stage shooting events at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley. However, during the bidding phase, the International Olympic Committee commented on the distance between Bisley and the Olympic Park. On the basis of this feedback, and following consultation with the International Shooting Federation, the Royal Artillery Barracks was selected as the shooting venue, due to its iconic location and its close proximity to the Olympic Park and Village. These factors will improve the athlete and spectator experience by limiting travel and making it easier to attend other Games events on the same day in the Olympic Park.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will provide a full breakdown of the £2.7 million Olympic contingency fund; and whether any of that contingency has been drawn down. [157734]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* On 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450, I announced a funding provision for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games of £9.325 billion. This included provision for £2.747 billion programme contingency, comprising:

£2,509 million contingency to reflect the risk of additional costs arising from factors such as unforeseen ground conditions, inflation beyond existing provision and changes in legislation; and

£238 million for any potential increases in the costs of policing and wider security.

The use of the programme contingency is subject to approval by the ministerial funders group. As set out in recent NAO report "The Budget for the London 2012, Olympic and Paralympic games," in June 2007, the group agreed to release £360 million of programme contingency to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). This will be drawn down from April 2008.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of the cash flow forecast for the Olympic Delivery Authority. [157735]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Details of the Olympic Delivery Authority's cash flows for 2007-08 are included in the ODA's 2007-08 business plan summary, published on its website. A copy of which is in the Libraries of both Houses.

Chapter 20 of the CSR White Paper published on 9 October sets out the Government's contribution for the next three years (2008-09 to 2010-11). The balance of the funding requirement will be met, as planned in March 2007, from contributions from the Mayor of London (GLA and LDA); from funding already coming in from Olympic lottery games; from funds from the Sports Lottery Distributor; and from the funds to be transferred from the National Lottery Distribution Fund, subject to affirmative resolution in both Houses.

Further details of cash flows will be set out in future business plan summaries.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how the issue of financing costs is being addressed in the Olympics Delivery Authority budget. [157736]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The CSR announced grant in aid from Government of £1,559/£1,104/£1,050 million in 2008-09 to 2010-11. Provision for 2011-12 to 2013-14 will be confirmed in the next CSR.

The balance of the funding requirement will be met, as planned in March 2007, from contributions from the Mayor of London (GLA and IDA); from funding already coming in from Olympic lottery games; from funds from the Sports lottery distributor; and from the funds to be transferred from the national lottery distribution fund, subject to affirmative resolution in both Houses.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much it will cost to rent all facilities not located on the Olympic park necessary to stage the London 2012 Olympics, broken down by venue. [158728]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The London Organising Committee for the Olympic games (LOCOG) have informed me that they have set aside an allowance of circa £30 million for arrangements for non-Olympic park sporting venues.

LOCOG are not currently in a position to disclose further information, by venue, as they are still negotiating terms with some of the venue owners and to do so would prejudice their commercial interests.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the likely cost of the London 2012 Olympic games that will be paid via the council tax in London; and if she will make a statement. [158837]

Tessa Jowell: The estimated contribution from the London council tax, as announced in 2003, remains at £625 million.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years; [157913]

(2) how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157914]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor (Tony Blair) to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 196W.

Information on the number of visits to the site can be found on the No. 10. website (http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page13384.asp). A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

The running costs for the No. 10 website the financial year 1 April 2006-1 April 2007 were £189,689. The costs reflect the creation of new channels with which to engage with the public, including e-petitions and the YouTube channel, both of which are major innovations in online Government communication.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158901]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1108W. Figures for the financial year 2007-08 will be published in the usual way after the end of the financial year.

Ministers: Grace and Favour Housing

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the grace and favour properties available to members of the Government; and who the current occupants of those properties are. [157812]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers occupy each of the official ministerial residences; and which of them *(a)* pay and *(b)* do not pay council tax on their official residences. [158074]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The flats above numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street have traditionally been the residences of the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer. I currently reside in Number 11 Downing Street and my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer resides in Number 10 Downing Street. One of the flats in Admiralty House is currently occupied by my right hon. Friend, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Malloch-Brown). Council tax is paid personally on these official residences by me and both my right hon. Friends. The remaining official residences are currently unoccupied. The ministerial residence in South Eaton Place, Pimlico, is no longer required and it will be sold, with the proceeds going to the Exchequer.

In addition, I have the use of Chequers and my right hon. Friends the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Foreign Secretary, have the use of Dorneywood and Chevening respectively. Council tax in respect of Chequers, Dorneywood and Chevening is a matter for the trustees. Ministers in the Northern Ireland Office have the use of accommodation in Hillsborough Castle and Stormont.

Prime Minister's Questions

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Prime Minister how many hours are spent each week in preparation for Prime Minister's Questions by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers (i) in Downing Street and (ii) on average in other Departments; and if he will make a statement. [158828]

The Prime Minister: I am briefed in exactly the same way as my predecessors were.

Royal Household: Finance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister what contributions to the cost of the Royal Household are met by countries other than the United Kingdom where Her Majesty the Queen is Head of State; and if he will make a statement. [156845]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

None.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to tax aircraft emissions rather than impose air passenger duty; and if he will make a statement. [157260]

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues about potential alternatives to air passenger duty; and what plans he has to change the current system. [157317]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Members to the Chancellor's statement in the House on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 167W, and to the pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 'Meeting the aspirations of the British people' (Cm.7227) paragraphs 7.54 to 7.56.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England developed breast cancer in each of the last three years; [157519]

(2) what proportion of people in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England developed breast cancer in each of the last three years. [157520]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated, 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking how many people developed breast cancer (a) in Hertfordshire and (b) nationally in each of the last three years [157519], and what proportion of people developed breast cancer (a) in Hertfordshire and (b) nationally in each of the last three years [157520].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant neoplasm of breast are for 2004. Numbers and rates per 100,000 for 2002-2004 for England and the county of Hertfordshire are given in Table 1 below.

It is not possible to produce breast cancer rates for males in Hertfordshire due to the small numbers involved.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases and rates[1] per 100,000 of malignant neoplasm of breast[2]: England and the county of Hertfordshire[3], by sex, 2002-04

		Registrations			Rates		
		2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
England	Male	254	289	272	0.9	1.0	0.9
	Female	35,149	37,283	36,939	117	123	121
Hertfordshire	Male	8	7	7	—	—	—
	Female	621	711	667	103	114	104

[1] Rates are directly age-standardised to control for differences in the age structure of populations between geographical areas over time.
[2] Breast cancer is defined as code C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[3] Rates were not calculated for males in Hertfordshire as the numbers of registrations were too low.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Childcare: Finance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funds are available to local authorities for provision under the forthcoming childcare duty. [157750]

Beverley Hughes: I have bean asked to reply.

We are determined that local authorities should have the resources they need to fulfil the statutory duty to secure from April 2008, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents. From that month the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant to local authorities in England will include revenue and capital funding as shown in the table to fund Sure Start Children's Centres; support outcomes, quality and diversity; and support child care sufficiency and access. This funding is not ring-fenced and it remains up to individual local authorities to determine how their funds will be spent.

£ million

	Revenue funding	Capital funding
2008-09	1,239	379
2009-10	1,340	472
2010-11	1,508	361

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157908]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to staff currently seconded to the Treasury can be found on the HMT Website at:

http://www.hm-treasury_gov.uk/about/about_secondee.cfm

Disability Aids: Finance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allocate additional funding to improve wheelchair and mobility equipment available to disabled children and young people as set out in the report Aiming High for Disabled Children by his Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [156953]

Andy Burnham: The Department of Health (DH) 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement of £110 billion by 2010-11 included additional resource to support improved outcomes for disabled children (as committed in the HM Treasury/ Department for Education and Skills (DCSF) report "Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families".

Improving outcomes for disabled children and their families will also be reflected in the new PSA and indicator set, with a joint DCSF/DH national disabled children's indicator as part of the new CSR performance management framework setting out Government priorities and driving improved provision and delivery of services.

Employment: Mentally Ill People

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish his Department's Review of Mental Health and Employment; if he will give priority to extending access to proven psychological therapies in order to increase employment opportunities and reduce the risk of unemployment among people with mental health problems; and if he will make a statement. [157846]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the statement my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health made on 10 October 2007.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residential dwellings in England are recorded by the Valuation Office Agency with the dwelling house coding of having *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedrooms, *(c)* three bedrooms and *(d)* four or more bedrooms. [158058]

Jane Kennedy: As at 4 October 2007, the relevant number of dwellings in England were 2,545,082 with one bedroom, 6,247,291 with two bedrooms, 10,045,887 with three bedrooms and 3,139,945 with four or more bedrooms.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in revenue from reducing the *(a)* basic rate of income tax and *(b)* higher rate of income tax by one per cent. in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [158076]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested will be published in the next edition of HM Treasury's tax ready reckoner—'2007 tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs'—which will be published later this year.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Financial Services Authority is taking to assess the effectiveness of the contingency plans of the UK's financial institutions for a potential influenza pandemic. [158470]

Kitty Ussher: In October/November 2006, the Financial Services Authority, on behalf of the Tripartite Authorities (HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority (FSA)), led a six week market wide exercise on pandemic flu. Around 70 market participants took part and a report on lessons learned is available on the Tripartite Financial Sector Continuity website (www.fsc.gov.uk).

The Tripartite Authorities have held a series of follow up events to discuss key issues arising from the exercise and the FSA continues to work with retail banks, insurance firms, recovery site providers and telecommunications firms to produce statements about how they would respond in a pandemic.

In addition, the FSA has conducted benchmarking to establish the preparedness of firms to deal with a range of threats or hazards, including pandemic influenza.

Long Term Public Finance Report 2007

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the Long Term Public Finance Report 2007 was not published with the Pre-Budget Report; and when he plans to publish it. [158850]

Andy Burnham: As set out in paragraph 2.45 of the 2007 pre-Budget report, the Government publish the "Long-term public finance report" to provide a comprehensive analysis of long-term socio-economic and demographic developments, and their likely impact on the public finances, based on the most up-to-date information available.

The population projections provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are central to this analysis. Given that ONS will not publish the new population projections until the 23 October 2007, the next long-term public finance report will now be published at a later date.

Mortgages

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the maximum fixed term mortgage available is in the UK; and what estimate he has made of how many borrowers have signed up to such a facility; [157807]

(2) what estimate he has made of how many mortgage holders in the UK have fixed term mortgages. [157811]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Service Authority (FSA) publishes comparative tables of products offered by lenders that report that the maximum fixed term for a mortgage in the UK is 25 years. These tables are available at http://www.fsa.gov.uk/tables

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes the number of fixed term mortgages issued each year in the UK. These statistics are available at http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

Pay

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees have income in excess of £50,000 per year; and what percentage of the total employed workforce that figure represents. [157392]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many employees have income in excess of £50,000 per year; and what percentage of total employed workforce that figure represents. (157392)

The information requested is not available in respect of income, but the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) can be used to provide a partial answer for UK earnings. ASHE is earned out in April each year and is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent. sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

ASHE is not used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is greater than a specific amount, but is used to provide estimates of proportions of the workforce in that category. I attach a table showing an estimate of the percentage of the UK workforce which earned greater than £50,000 per year, from the 2006 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Proportion of UK employees paid in excess of £50,000 per year[1]

UK 2006	*Percentage*
Full-time	8.3
Part-time	0.5
All jobs	6.3

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Public Sector: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether delivery agreements will accompany the new public service agreements; and if he will make a statement. [158398]

Andy Burnham: A delivery agreement was published for each public service agreement (PSA) alongside the pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review. They are available on HM Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/pbr_csr07_index.cfm

Stamp Duties: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was collected from stamp duty in each financial year since 1997 in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Peterborough City Council area; and if he will make a statement. [157948]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the stamp duty land tax yield at local authority/unitary authority level are not available for years prior to 2005-06. Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are provided in the tables from the following HMRC website:

2005-06: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table154-0506.pdf

2006-07: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table154-0607.pdf

Estimates of stamp duty land tax yield at parliamentary constituency level are under review. The HMRC website will announce an update on the publication timetable in October.

Suicide: Children

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suicides there were amongst children between the ages of 10 and 18 years in each of the last 10 years, broken down by year group. [157790]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides there were amongst children between the ages of 10 and 18 years in each of the last 10 years, broken down by year groups. (157790)

The table below contains numbers of suicides for those aged under 19 by single year of age in England and Wales from 1996 to 2005, the latest available year.

The definition of suicide used by ONS assumes that most deaths from "injury or poisoning of undetermined intent" at ages 15 and over are cases where the harm was self-inflicted but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. For this reason, ONS includes these in its suicide statistics for those aged 15 and over, along with deaths from intentional self-harm. The same cannot be assumed in deaths at ages under 15. There were no deaths in children aged under 13 with a suicide verdict for the period requested.

Number of deaths from suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent, ages 13 to 18, England and Wales, 1996 to 2005[1]

	Suicide[2]		*Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent*[3]			
	13 years	*14 years*	*15 years*	*16 years*	*17 years*	*18 years*
1996	1	2	9	24	25	61
1997	1	4	6	27	28	42
1998	1	2	8	19	41	46
1999	1	1	7	20	37	57
2000	1	2	16	10	43	48
2001	1	4	8	17	29	45
2002	2	3	11	18	33	36
2003	2	1	4	16	27	36
2004	3	2	7	20	23	42
2005	1	0	6	14	17	34

[1] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

[2] The came of death for suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84for 200J onwards.

[3] The cause of death for injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E980-E989 excluding E9 88.8 for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes YW-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending for 2001 onwards.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of tax relief on pensions *(a)* in total and *(b)* for higher rate contributions in 2007-08. [158144]

Kitty Ussher: As set out in the 2007 pre-Budget report, the annual cost of tax relief on approved pension schemes for 2007-08 is estimated to be £17.5 billion.

Detailed estimates covering the period 1998-99 to 2006-07 are available in table 7.9 on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 24 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 52W.

Taxation: International Civil Servant Status

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in the UK have international civil servant status for tax purposes; what such status means in terms of allowances and exemptions; and if he will make a statement. [158423]

Jane Kennedy: Under UK tax law there is no such person as an "international civil servant". However, officials of the United Nations are sometimes referred to as international civil servants. There is no requirement for visiting officials to notify HM Revenue and Customs of their presence in the UK. Those who are present in the UK for a sufficient length of time to become resident in the UK will be dealt with locally. Information is not collated centrally.

The UK tax position of employees of the United Nations is set out in the United Nations and International Court of Justice (Immunities and Privileges) Order 1974. This provides immunities and privileges that are normal for international organisations. It includes among other things that officials of the UN shall be exempt from income tax on remuneration received by them from the UN. UN Officials are however subject to a form of internal tax operated by the UN, which is referred to as the Staff Assessment.

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris Bryant: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many teenagers gave birth in each constituency in 2006. [157349]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many teenagers gave birth in each constituency in 2006. (157349).

The attached table provides the number of live births to mothers aged less than 20 in each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, in 2006. Since these figures are for births rather than maternities, a small number of teenage mothers who had multiple births will have been counted more than once. A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Unemployment: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the 18 to 24-year-old population of the Peterborough constituency was not been in education, training or employment in each quarter since the second quarter of 2001; and if he will make a statement. [158648]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the 18 to 24 year old population of the Peterborough constituency has not been in education, training or employment in each quarter since the second quarter of 2001. (158648)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Quarterly data are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

The table attached shows the numbers of 18 to 24 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in Peterborough for the 12 month periods ending in February for 2002 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 month periods ending in March for 2005 to 2007, from the APS. The table also shows these numbers as the percentage of all 18 to 24 year olds in the area for each year.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Persons aged 18 to 24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training resident in the Peterborough constituency

12 months ending	*Number (Thousand)*	*Percentage of all 18-24 year olds*
February 2002	2	25
February 2003	2	18
February 2004	2	21
March 2005	2	27
March 2006	2	26
March 2007	2	25

Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 4757W, on 18 to 24-year-olds, how many 18 to 24-year-olds were not in full-time education, employment or training in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 years. [158340]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many 18 to 24 year olds were not in full-time education, employment or training in each (a) local authority area and (b) parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 years. (158340)

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* function is of the Valuation Office Agency's World Class Programme. [158065]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1640W, and also refer to the agency's Forward Plan 2007-10 published on 18 June 2007.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1018W to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) on the Valuation Office Agency, what the destination was of each of the 412 flights. [158286]

Jane Kennedy: Details of the destinations of these 412 flights could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and time.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's communications toolkit. [158400]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 217-18W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond). The VGA's communications toolkit has been laid in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England) last met. [158402]

Jane Kennedy: This programme board last met on 22 November 2005.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Rating Cost Guide in CD-Rom format. [158414]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's Rating Cost Guide provides indicative costs of buildings and machinery for use in valuations for non-domestic rating purposes. Since 2004 it has been made available to the general public for purchase at a charge of £750.00 (in CD-Rom format).

Valuation Office: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on *(a)* champagne and wine and *(b)* alcohol in the last year for which audited figures are available. [158066]

Jane Kennedy: Costs attributable to *(a)* and *(b)* are minimal because the Valuation Office Agency's policy is that alcohol should not normally be provided for internal conferences or for external events. They are not recorded separately and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and time.

Valuation Office: Digital Versatile Disks

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1019W to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on the Valuation Office Agency: digital versatile disks, how many videos, including VHS formats and electronic digital formats, have been produced by the Agency in the last 36 months. [158284]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has produced no videos in VHS format over the last 36 months. Since October 2004, 25 internal 'videos' to staff have been produced in a digital format available to view via the Agency's wide area network.

Valuation Office: Visits Abroad

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1020W, on the Valuation Office Agency: visits abroad, to which bodies the agency's staff have been seconded in Australia; how many staff have been seconded; and what divisions of the agency they come from. [158283]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has sponsored three reciprocal, six-month, secondments from the Valuation Office to the Australian Valuation Office.

1. Secondee from Tunbridge Wells Valuation Office to Australian Valuation Office for the period 30 January 2006 to 30 July 2006.

2. Secondee from DV Services Central (Shrewsbury) to Australian Valuation Office for the period 2 October 2006 to 30 March 2006.

3. Secondee from Harrogate Valuation Office to Australian Valuation Office for the period 2 April 2007 to 28 September 2007.

VAT: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether VAT will be levied *(a)* on the local authority search elements and *(b)* drainage and water search elements of home information packs. [158405]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2243W, to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt). Drainage and water searches remain VAT standard-rated when supplied by a VAT registered business.

VAT: Swimming

Janet Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on reducing the level of VAT payable on swimming lessons for children; and if he will make a statement. [158441]

Jane Kennedy: Representations are regularly made to Treasury Ministers and officials on a wide range issues.

VAT is not chargeable on swimming lessons provided by non-profit making bodies, local authorities, schools, and private tutors, otherwise they are VAT standard-rated. The VAT agreements with our European partners that allow us to keep our existing zero rates, and which govern the scope of our VAT exemptions and reduced rates, do not allow us to reduce the rate of VAT currently payable on children's swimming lessons.

Venture Capital

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place for directors and elite shareholders of businesses *(a)* in the process of being and *(b)* after having been taken over by (i) private equity businesses and (ii) non-private equity businesses to disclose all deals, promises and transactions of personal benefit to themselves, both prior to and subsequent to the takeover; what duties such directors and elite shareholders have to other shareholders and employees of the business being taken over; what proposals he has to change the existing arrangements; and if he will bring forward urgent proposals to legislate to make such disclosure necessary. [152607]

Kitty Ussher: Takeovers are supervised and regulated by the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers in accordance with the rules set out in the Takeover Code. This provides an orderly framework within which takeovers are conducted, contributing to the integrity of financial markets, and ensuring that all shareholders are treated fairly and are not denied an opportunity to decide on the merits of a takeover.

The Code requires:

that all shareholders of the same class be treated equally (general principle 1)

the disclosure of share dealings during the offer period (rule 8)

that an offeror covers its intentions for the future of the business, including likely repercussions on employment (rule 24.1)

the disclosure of details of directors' interests and dealings in securities of the offeror company (rule 25.3)

the disclosure of details of directors' remuneration or service contracts (rule 25.4)

In addition, the FSA's Listing Rules require listed companies to disclose directors' service contracts, to notify relevant interests in securities by directors and persons connected with them, and also restrict dealings in the company's securities by directors and persons connected with them. Further obligations in relation to the disclosure of relevant information and of particular transactions in substantial portions of shares in a company whose shares are traded on regulated markets are contained in the FSA's Disclosure and Transparency Rules.

The Companies Act 2006 imposes statutory duties on directors of all companies, whether before or after a takeover, whether listed on a public market or privately held. These include the duties in chapter 2 of part 10 among other things to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its shareholders as a whole, having regard—among other matters—to the interests of the company's employees, to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence, and to avoid conflicts of interest. The Act imposes specific requirements for prior shareholder authorisation in areas likely to give rise to conflicts of interest, such as loans by the company to a director or long-term service contracts for directors. Chapters 4 and 6 of part 15 of the Act also impose disclosure requirements in respect of directors' remuneration, directors' service contracts, and advances, credit and guarantees to directors.

The Takeover Panel and FSA are respectively responsible under statute for setting takeover rules and listing and disclosure rules. BERR is responsible for the general corporate disclosure regime. Current rules are kept under review and regularly updated in line with market developments.

Written Questions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer Question 120846, on domestic taxation and house prices in Northern Ireland, tabled by the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar on 6 February. [158075]

Jane Kennedy: The hon. Member's question was transferred from the Treasury to the Northern Ireland Office. I understand that the former Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Neath (Mr. Hain), said in his reply of 19 February that the matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* individual voluntary agreements were recorded in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [158120]

Mr. McFadden: The table shows the number of bankruptcies and individual voluntary arrangements in England and Wales for financial years 1996-97 and 2006-07.

	Bankruptcy orders	*Individual voluntary arrangements*
1996-97	21,058	4,441
2006-07	64,610	47,975

Notes:
Figures are not seasonally adjusted.

Bankruptcy: Elderly

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Suffolk aged 60 years or over declared themselves bankrupt in each year since 1997. [156767]

Mr. McFadden: Bankruptcy statistics broken down by age as well as by region are currently only readily available on the basis of the locations of official receivers offices (each of which cover a group of county courts where the cases are heard and the courts having jurisdiction over these), and for the years 2000 through to 2006.

The table provides estimates of numbers of individuals aged 60 years and over declared bankrupt in the regions considered to be closest to those requested, but they should not be treated as completely accurate statistics because date of birth is not recorded for all bankruptcy cases over the period covered and also because regional statistics based around the jurisdictions of official receivers are not consistent with county or country level geographies.

Estimated numbers of bankruptcy orders, individuals aged 60 and over 2000 to 2006

	Bankrupts aged 60 years and above by geographical area			
	England and Wales	*England*	*Anglia*	*Ipswich*
2000	973	924	137	22
2001	1,068	1,027	143	18
2002	1,289	1,249	182	23
2003	1,637	1,566	233	23
2004	2,149	2,059	296	25
2005	3,126	3,042	471	38
2006	4,796	4,622	720	72

Notes:
1. Anglia region covers the following OR offices: Cambridge, Ipswich, Northampton, Norwich, St. Albans, Southend-on-Sea.
2. Ipswich's OR office covers the following county courts: Sudbury, St. Osyth, Ipswich, Colchester and Clacton, Braintree.

Conditions of Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what provisions of the Warwick Agreement, which have not been implemented, he plans to implement. [158679]

Mr. McFadden: The Government remain committed to fulfilling their manifesto over the course of this Parliament. The Government's employment relations strategy, "Success at Work", was published in March last year and sets out our plans for delivering these commitments within the wider context of the labour market and Better Regulation agenda.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [156996]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 822W.

The guidance covering the conduct of official business during a general election was last issued in May 2005. This guidance, and other relevant procedures and processes, are kept under constant review by Departments so that they are ready to be put in place when a general election is called.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were employed by his Department and its predecessor on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158317]

Mr. Thomas: The average number of people employed by the predecessor to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, in each of the last five years, is as follows:

	Civil servants permanent	*Others*
2002-03	4130	29
2003-04	3750	456
2004-05	3846.5	419
2005-06	3302.4	211.4
2006-07	3085.5	134

Derelict Land: South East Region

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many hectares of brownfield land were *(a)* reclaimed and *(b)* redeveloped by the South East England Development Agency in the last year for which figures were available; and what the annual target range was for that indicator. [158116]

Mr. Timms: SEEDA is on target to remediate over 200 hectares of brownfield land over our three year corporate plan period 2005-08, which is within our target range for this output. A shortfall in 2006-07 was caused by delays with delivery of some large projects, which will create a surplus against the target range in 2007-08. SEEDA does not hold a specific record of when brownfield land is developed.

Brownfield land remediated in the South East by SEEDA

	Target range	*Hectare Actual*
2005-06	72-120	101
2006-07	75-125	13
2007-08	34.5-57.5	—
Total	181.5-302.5	—

Energy: Meters

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what date domestic consumers will be entitled to request a free visual display meter from their energy companies; and if he will make a statement. [158577]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government propose to require companies to provide display devices at the request of electricity customers for a two-year period from 2008. It is currently consulting on this and other proposals, and will take final decisions following that consultation.

Microgeneration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the value of the Merton rule to the UK's microgeneration industry in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [159364]

Malcolm Wicks: In line with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement 22 on Renewable Energy, some 120 local planning authorities have set targets for the use of on-site renewable energy in new developments. As recognised by our Microgeneration Strategy, such policies play an important role in stimulating the renewables industry and create a market for microgeneration technologies. The first authority to formalise the policy was the London borough of Merton. While we have not estimated the monetary value of Merton style policies, I know that the microgeneration business regard them as an important driver for their market.

Post Offices: Temporary Employment

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the use of agency staff by the Post Office is in line with regulations relating to the Employment Act 2003. [157808]

Mr. McFadden: To date the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate has not received any information to suggest that the regulations governing employment agencies, the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003, are not being complied with by Royal Mail.

Royal Mail has given assurances that it fully complies with the requirements of the legislation regarding employment agencies.

Postal Services: Competition

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact of the manner in which Postcomm has imposed the universal service obligation on the profitability of *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* Royal Mail's competitors; and what comparison he has made with the process of liberalisation in other EU countries. [158756]

Mr. McFadden: Assuring the provision of a universal service and liberalising the postal market are matters for Postcomm, the Postal Services Commission. The Regulator regularly reviews universal service provision and market conditions in both the UK and other EU member states. Its reports are made publicly available on its website at:

http:// www.psc.gov.uk.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations the Energy Minister has received from the renewable energy industry on the future of the Merton rule. [159365]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has had representations at all levels from the renewable energy industry around proposed changes to the planning system, and the future of Merton style policies. We work closely with business to ensure that relevant issues are understood and taken into consideration in the development of new policy.

Renewable Energy: Housing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the Energy Minister has held with the Housing Minister on the future of the Merton rule; and if he will make a statement. [159366]

Malcolm Wicks: We are working closely with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government developing policies in this area. Discussions on the final detail of proposed changes to planning policy are ongoing.

Severn Barrage

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether the report he commissioned on a Severn Barrage will consider the potential economic impact of the Barrage on the city of Bristol; [158649]

(2) how many locations are being considered as being potentially suitable for the Severn Barrage; [158650]

(3) whether the report he has commissioned into a potential Severn Barrage will consider all major options for renewable energy generation facilities in the River Severn including the benefits and disadvantages of the status quo; and when the report will be concluded. [158651]

Malcolm Wicks: The feasibility study, for which the detailed remit and budget are now being scoped, will consider all key aspects of a tidal barrage in the Severn Estuary, including environmental, social and economic issues. The Government are committed to taking forward the feasibility study in an open and transparent way, which will include engaging with business, environmental and community groups.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what business, environmental and community groups will be consulted with regard to the report he has commissioned on the Severn Barrage; and how such groups are being made aware of the report; [158703]

(2) what budget he has allocated for the report on the Severn Barrage. [158704]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The feasibility study, for which the detailed remit and budget are now being scoped, will consider all key aspects of a tidal barrage in the Severn Estuary, including environmental, social and economic issues. The Government are committed to taking forward the feasibility study in an open and transparent way, which will include engaging with business, environmental and community groups.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of retailers for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years old for consumption off the premises in each of the last 10 years. [156197]

Maria Eagle: The information requested on prosecutions and convictions of retailers for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years in each of the last 10 years is provided in the following table. It is not possible to identify from the data whether these sales were on or off licensed premises.

In addition to court proceedings, the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The offence was added to the PND scheme on the 1 November 2004, and there were 113 penalty notices issued for the offence in November and December of that year. Additionally, another 2,058 penalty notices were issued in 2005. Data for 2006 will be available in November 2007.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to under-age customers, England and Wales, 1995 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
1995	198	108
1996	251	119
1997	215	126
1998	311	158
1999	205	115
2000	132	56
2001	158	53
2002	170	105

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to under-age customers, England and Wales, 1995 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2003	616	419
2004	841	593
2005	1,084	772

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Covers the offences: selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises under the Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A and B,as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1, wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17, sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S.146 and allowing sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S.147. Sections 146 and 147 of the 2003 Licensing Act only came into effect from 24 November 2005, so data prior to 2005 is not available. The first two offences cannot separately identify on and off premises consumption although both are covered by the statutes.

Source:

RDS, Court proceedings database, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Approved Premises: Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rates are of those released from approved premises in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [158202]

Maria Eagle: No information on re-offending rates from those released from approved premises (bail or probation hostels) is available centrally.

This information could only be collated by manual checking of individual case details, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will list his Department and its predecessors *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156643]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was launched on 9 May 2007 from the merger of Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), National Offender Management service (NOMS), and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). NOMS and OCJR were part of the Home Office prior to 9 May 2007 and details of their related public bodies for 2005-06 and 2006-07 will be covered by the Home Office.

The list of Executive agencies related to DCA for 2005-06 were: HM Courts Service, HM Land Registry, the National Archives, and the Public Guardianship Office. The list of NDPBs, trading funds and public corporations for 2005-06 are included in the Public Bodies Directory 2006, published on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/publications/pdf/public-bodies/publicbodies2006.pdf

The list of Executive agencies related to DCA for 2006-07 were: HM Courts Service, HM Land Registry, the National Archives, Public Guardianship Office, and the Tribunals Service. The list of NDPBs, trading funds and public corporations for 2006-07 are included within the DCA Public Bodies Directory 2007, a copy of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The current list of agencies, NDPBs, trading funds and public corporations listed under Ministry of Justice, are published on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/organisationswesponsor.htm

Departments: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the Government's plans to increase data-sharing across Government; and whether the Government plans to amend *(a)* the Data Protection Act 1998 and *(b)* other legislation to facilitate this. [158190]

Mr. Wills: As part of the Government's Service Transformation Agreement the Ministry of Justice will lead a cross-government programme to deliver a package of measures over the next three to five years to tackle crime and terrorism, improve personalised public services, increase public safety and tackle social exclusion through information-sharing while maintaining openness and respect for citizens' privacy and access rights. No legislative changes are being considered at this stage.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department and its predecessor have issued on time limits on the right to request an internal review of a response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [158198]

Mr. Wills: Guidance on the discharge of public authorities' functions is provided in a code of practice under section 45 of the Act, which is laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor. This guidance sets the procedure for dealing with complaints, referred to as internal reviews. Any request for an internal review must be dealt with in accordance with the code of practice. It contains no specific guidance on time limits for requesters to ask for internal reviews. In response to FOI requests received by the Ministry of Justice, the requester is informed via a letter that they may ask for an internal review within two calendar months from the date of that letter. This is consistent with the time limit set out in the Environmental Information Regulations under Regulation 11(2) of 40 days to issue a complaint. Public authorities are free to decide, on a case by case basis, whether they will carry out an internal review requested after this period has elapsed.

Elections: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has *(a)* to hold further remote electronic voting pilots, *(b)* to hold further electronic counting pilots and *(c)* to extend the use of electronic voting to mainstream elections. [158200]

Mr. Wills: In the Governance of Britain Green Paper the Government set out a long-term aim to investigate the potential benefits of remote electronic voting and to take advantage of emerging communication technologies to provide increased flexibility and choice in the way people vote.

The outcomes of the May 2007 electoral pilot schemes and the subsequent recommendations of the Electoral Commission are currently being considered. I expect to be able to set out our thinking on future piloting involving remote electronic voting and electronic counting pilots in the near future.

The Government currently have no plans to extend the use of e-voting. The Government believe that piloting innovations in e-voting and e-counting have been important in order to test the potential benefits, and establish the evidential basis for future decisions to be taken on whether or not electronic voting could be used more widely in elections.

Electronic Conveyancing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expected timetable is for the full implementation of electronic conveyancing by the Land Registry. [158199]

Mr. Wills: The latest revision of Land Registry's business case for the electronic conveyancing programme estimates that the programme of work will be fully implemented in 2014-15. The programme's implementation plan is constantly reviewed and updated to ensure that each new service and product is fully tested and that customer feedback is taken on board.

Fraud: Mortgages

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of fraudulent registration in the Land Registry of ownership of another person's property and associated mortgage fraud occurred in each of the last three years. [158304]

Mr. Wills: It is not known how many applications have been made to Land Registry in each of the last three years that have resulted in a fraudulent registration, whether in respect of the ownership of land or of a mortgage on land. This is because, firstly, there may be cases that have not come to light, and, secondly, Land Registry does not presently keep a central record of all frauds that affect the register of title. Land Registry does keep a central record of all cases where it pays statutory compensation, including those which result from fraud. It is also in the process of developing a more comprehensive method of recording fraud, whether or not it results in the payment of compensation.

Any owner of land who suffers loss as a result of the registration of a forged transfer or mortgage through no fault of their own is entitled to be compensated for that loss by Land Registry.

Land Registry paid statutory compensation as a result of fraud on a total of 15 claims in 2004-05, 31 claims in 2005-06 and 24 claims in 2006-07. To put this into context, there are currently more than 21 million registered titles and, in each of the last three years, Land Registry received around 4 million applications to register transfers for value and mortgages.

General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election being held in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157052]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average price was for a *(a)* residential property, *(b)* detached house, *(c)* semi-detached house, *(d)* terraced house and *(e)* maisonette/flat in each year in England since 1991 according to Land Registry data. [158140]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry began collating this data in 1995. Information prior to this is not available. The following table provides the requested data from 1995 to present.

England average prices and volumes of sales 1995 to Q2 2007

£

	Detached	*Semi-detached*	*Terraced*	*Flat/maisonette*	*Overall average*
England					
Annual 1995	106,332	60,917	51,869	59,826	68,824
Annual 1996	109,810	62,998	54,209	64,705	72,355
Annual 1997	119,559	68,492	59,856	72,554	79,236
Annual 1998	129,879	73,992	64,805	80,380	85,829
Annual 1999	142,325	81,782	73,025	93,307	96,221
Annual 2000	165,982	91,902	83,273	110,879	110,208
Annual 2001	183,161	103,624	91,810	121,440	121,589
Annual 2002	213,246	122,144	106,053	139,657	140,952

England average prices and volumes of sales 1995 to Q2 2007

£

	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat/maisonette	Overall average
Annual 2003	246,533	142,795	119,888	151,247	158,984
Annual 2004	276,202	164,686	139,367	169,426	180,922
Annual 2005	297,285	175,848	150,796	176,114	191,823
All regions					
Annual 2006	314,600	186,889	165,048	186,852	206,146
England					
Q1 2007	329,925	192,072	171,237	196,707	212,980
Q2 2007	334,418	197,228	176,252	200,648	218,751

Source:
Land Registry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average price derived from Land Registry data was in each local authority area in England and Wales for *(a)* all homes, *(b)* flats/maisonettes, *(c)* detached homes and *(d)* semi-detached homes in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158270]

Mr. Wills: The latest available figures from Land Registry cover the period from April to June 2007 and can be found in the Libraries of the House.

Land Registry: Internet

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties are recorded by the Land Registry but not accessible on Land Registry Online. [158201]

Mr. Wills: All registered titles in England and Wales are publicly accessible via 'Land Register Online'.

Land Registry: Revenue and Customs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what access *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have to the Land Registry land database for valuation or taxation purposes. [158193]

Mr. Wills: HM Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency have no automatic access to Land Registry's land database other than that which is available to business users of the electronic service 'Land Registry Direct'.

Land: Registration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment the Land Registry has made of the number of properties or items of land which are not recorded by the Land Registry. [158139]

Mr. Wills: At the end of September 2007, 61.7 per cent. of the freehold land area of England and Wales was registered with Land Registry representing just over 21 million registered titles. Land Registry estimates that the remaining 38.3 per cent. of the land area will generate around 4.5 million freehold first registrations.

Legal Aid

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of fixed legal aid fees upon not-for-profit legal aid providers; [158221]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken into the effects of the Government's legal aid reform plans upon different regions and areas of the country; if he will publish such research; and if he will make a statement; [158222]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the Government's legal aid reform plans upon *(a)* clients with severe mental health problems, *(b)* black and minority ethnic clients, *(c)* disabled clients, *(d)* clients with housing problems and *(e)* clients involved in complex children and family cases who use legal aid. [158225]

Maria Eagle: Each new fee scheme published by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) has been accompanied by an impact assessment. These are available on the LSC's website, and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Within the next few weeks, the LSC also intends to publish a combined cumulative impact assessment of the legal aid reform programme to date, including those changes due for implementation in January.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what further plans he has to meet representatives of the legal profession and other organisations with an interest or involvement in the delivery of legal aid to discuss the future direction of the Government's legal aid reform plans. [158269]

Maria Eagle: My noble Friend the Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, has met a wide range of representatives from the legal profession and others with an interest in legal aid since he became the responsible Minister. He will continue to do so over the coming months to discuss the future direction of legal aid following completion of the introduction of the new fee schemes.

Legal Aid: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received from individuals and organisations from Blackpool on the Government's legal aid reform plans. [158224]

Maria Eagle: In the past year the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor have received two such representations from the hon. Gentleman on behalf of constituents and one from the hon. Member for Blackpool, North and Fleetwood (Mrs. Humble).

Legal Aid: Fees and Charges

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to re-introduce a graduated fee system for legal aid rates in replacement of the fixed rate fee system. [158223]

Maria Eagle: The fixed fee schemes being introduced for civil, family, immigration and criminal legally aided work set fees for particular tasks or groups of tasks. Thus the fees are graduated according to the requirements of work. This move from remuneration for each hour worked to payment for each job done is an essential part of our strategy for reform of legal aid.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what amendments have been made and what recent representations he has received about the operation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement; [158333]

(2) what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [158334]

Bridget Prentice: Since the Mental Capacity Act 2005 received Royal Assent we have held a series of public consultations seeking views as we have developed the code of practice and secondary legislation to support the implementation of the Act. In addition to the formal responses to consultation we have on occasion received representations on the Act from members of the public via their Members of Parliament. Since April 2007 we have received 43 such communications asking questions or commenting on the Act's provisions.

There have been two minor changes to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to date, both of which were introduced by the Mental Health Act 2007. The first made a minor amendment to section 20(11)(a) of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to correct a drafting error by replacing the word "or" with "and". The second amended section 49 of the Act to clarify the occasions when it is not necessary to appoint an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate.

In addition the Mental Health Act 2007 contains provisions that will amend the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to introduce new safeguards to address the issues raised in the European Court of Human Rights judgment on 5 October 2004 in the case of HL *v.* the United Kingdom.

A number of pieces of secondary legislation that prescribe the detail of how the Act will operate have been laid before Parliament and have come into force as of 1 October 2007. In addition the Office of the Public Guardian has produced a wide range of forms, guidance and other information related to the operation of the Act. The Department's Mental Capacity Implementation Programme and the Office of the Public Guardian have also regularly informed stakeholders and customers of progress implementing the Act via update newsletters.

I have laid a table in the House Library today providing a list of the main secondary legislation, forms and guidance and newsletters produced by the Department to support the implementation of the Act. Further information may be produced in the next 12 months as required.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many spaces in prisons in England and Wales are expected to be withdrawn in each of the next five years. [158348]

Mr. Hanson: There is a planned rolling programme of refurbishment of accommodation across the prison estate. This allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken while having no significant net change on the number of places in use. Annually this means that between 1,500 and 2,000 places are out of use at any one time for essential work. We are not currently planning to withdraw any further accommodation in addition to these places.

Prisoners: Age

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in prison of each ethnic group are *(a)* 18, *(b)* 19, *(c)* 20, *(d)* 21, *(e)* 22, *(f)* 23, *(g)* 24, *(h)* 25, *(i)* 26, *(j)* 27, *(k)* 28, *(l)* 29, *(m)* 30, *(n)* 31, *(o)* 32, *(p)* 33, *(q)* 34 and *(r)* 35 years old. [158643]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the population in prison establishments in England and Wales aged 18-35 by ethnic group as at 31 August 2007:

	White	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or Black British*	*Chinese or Other*	*Not stated, Unrecorded and 1991 census codes*	*All*
Age							
18	1,645	129	121	358	21	7	2,280
19	2,242	182	167	482	46	9	3,128
20	2,358	167	216	495	36	15	3,288
21	2,380	155	226	513	35	11	3,321

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other	Not stated. Unrecorded and 1991 census codes	All
22	2,296	134	269	471	51	23	3,244
23	2,253	104	274	510	47	19	3,207
24	2,213	120	263	488	49	33	3,166
25	2,176	106	284	516	60	33	3,175
26	2,175	103	305	474	44	23	3,124
27	2,133	119	291	480	59	36	3,118
28	2,112	104	255	487	50	25	3,034
29	1,819	82	260	431	41	18	2,652
30	1,683	73	249	405	46	16	2,471
31	1,689	73	187	377	42	13	2,381
32	1,694	49	187	333	45	18	2,325
33	1,626	69	174	350	37	6	2,262
34	1,598	42	159	344	32	19	2,195
35	1,536	57	143	309	23	19	2,088

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1227-8W, on accident and emergency departments, whether the advice on catchment population size applies to West Sussex. [157445]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not issued guidance stating that accident and emergency departments should cover a given catchment population.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency services that are responsive to people's needs.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Age

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age was for patients admitted to accident and emergency units in hospitals in the West Sussex primary care trust geographical area in the latest period for which figures are available. [157013]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held by the Department in the format requested. However, the following table shows the count of finished admission episodes and the mean (average) age for patients admitted via accident and emergency with a primary care trust (PCT) of responsibility of West Sussex PCT. The PCT of responsibility is the PCT with whom the patient is registered and has commissioning responsibility for the patient.

Count of finished admission episodes and mean age of patients admitted via accident and emergency with a primary care trust (PCT) of responsibility of West Sussex PCT for 2005-06: National health service hospitals—England

Finished admission episodes	15,492
Mean age (years)	54.5

Notes:
Admission methods:
21—Emergency: via accident and emergency (A and E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
28—Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another healthcare provider
Finished admission episodes:
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Data quality:
Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
(HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Accident and Emergency Departments: West Sussex Primary Care Trust

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact on travel times to emergency facilities in West Sussex Primary Care Trust in the event of the relocation of accident and emergency facilities away from Worthing Hospital. [157019]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with other local stakeholders and their strategic health authorities (SHAs) to make assessments of current and future health needs and to commission services accordingly. South East Coast SHA has advised officials that in this case West Sussex PCT has carried out the assessment.

The hon. Member may wish to approach the PCT directly on this matter.

Ambulance Services: South East Coast Strategic Health Authority

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what evidential basis the South East Coast strategic health authority describes as a myth the proposition that patients' lives will be at risk if it takes longer for the ambulance to transport them to accident and emergency as described on its website http://www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk. [157010]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for the local national health service. South East Coast strategic health authority has advised officials that the evidence obtained comes from several academic sources and has been a theme in a number of national publications.

We would encourage the hon. Member to contact the chief executive of the lead NHS organisation in this matter which is West Sussex primary care trust.

Ambulance Services: West Sussex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average *(a)* response time for emergency ambulance call-outs and *(b)* time before admission to hospital following emergency call out was in West Sussex primary care trust in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [157440]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on average response time and time before admission to hospital is not available. The closest equivalent measures of average response time are percentage of response times within eight minutes and 19 minutes.

Information on percentage of response times within eight minutes and within 19 minutes is available in tables 6 and 7 of the "Ambulance Services for England 2006-07" report.

This information is available for 2002-03 to 2006-07 for each Ambulance Service Provider in England. Data for 2006-07 are not directly comparable to data for earlier years due to the re-organisation of Ambulance Service Providers in 2006.

Data for West Sussex are not available; however, Sussex on a whole is shown. Complete Sussex data are available until 2005-06 and only for quarter one in 2006-07 due to the re-organisation.

The "Ambulance Services for England 2006-07" report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2006-07

Data are not available on time before admission to hospital as timing stops when an emergency vehicle arrives at the scene of the incident.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage primary care trusts to ensure that pharmacies offer chlamydia testing kits as part of the chlamydia screening programme. [156791]

Dawn Primarolo: Chlamydia screening programme areas are encouraged to engage a range of screening venues to participate in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, including pharmacies.

In addition to this, the Department contracted Boots to pilot the potential of community pharmacies as locations for chlamydia screening. Screening started on 14 November 2005. To date, nearly 43,000 screens have been undertaken with a positively rate of around 8 per cent. This pilot is being independently evaluated by TNS Healthcare.

In support of commissioners, the Department is working with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the national health service to develop a national template for a chlamydia screening local enhanced service through the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many 16 to 24-year-old *(a)* males and *(b)* females were tested for chlamydia infection as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme broken down by primary care trust in each year since 2003-04; and what proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds this represented in each year; [156793]

(2) how many tests for chlamydia infection have been undertaken in the 16 to 24-year-old age group in the year 2007-08 to date *(a)* in England and *(b)* broken down by primary care trust; and what percentage of 16 to 24-year-olds this represents in each case. [156794]

Dawn Primarolo: For the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, as at March 2007, there were 220,147 females and 49,993 males between the ages of 16 to 24 who provided a primary care trust (PCT) postcode of residence, who were tested for chlamydia in England. PCT data for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been placed in the Library.

Information is not currently available by PCT or by the number of tests undertaken within genito-urinary clinics. The number of diagnoses of uncomplicated chlamydia infection in 16 to 24-year-olds in genito-urinary clinics in England by strategic health authority and sex for 2006, is given in the following table.

Strategic health authority	*Gender*	*Number of diagnoses*
East Midlands	Male	2,473
East Midlands	Female	3,454
East of England	Male	2,184
East of England	Female	3,304
London	Male	4,468
London	Female	6,619
North East	Male	1,774
North East	Female	2,196
North West	Male	4,723
North West	Female	6,121
South Central	Male	1,771
South Central	Female	2,681
South East Coast	Male	1,515
South East Coast	Female	2,041
South West	Male	2,563
South West	Female	3,084
West Midlands	Male	2,476
West Midlands	Female	3,265
Yorkshire and the Humber	Male	3,304
Yorkshire and the Humber	Female	4,434
England	Male	27,251
England	Female	37,199

Notes:
1. Data are only available up to the calendar year 2006.
2. Data are not available at the PCT level.
3. Data on the number of test for chlamydia infection are not available.
4. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
5. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with several co-infections and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
6. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Sources:
1. KC60 returns.
2. Health Protection Agency.

Chlamydia: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the average cost of delivering and processing an individual chlamydia screening test. [158477]

Dawn Primarolo: "Modelling the Healthcare costs of an opportunistic chlamydia screening" programme research published in 2004 using data from a pilot study undertaken between 1999-2000 in Portsmouth and Wirral within the National Chlamydia Screening programme, estimated the costs per screening offer, testing episode and positive result. This information is given in tables 1 and 2.

A more recent article "The health care and patient costs of an proactive chlamydia screening programme: the Chlamydia Screening Studies (ClaSS)", published in 2007, identifies costs for register-based screening (rather than opportunistic screening which is used currently within the NCSP) but comes up with very similar average costs to the 2004 article.

Table 1: Estimated average costs of a chlamydia screen—excluding partner management costs

Item	*Estimated average cost (£)*
Screening offer	14.18
Testing episode	20.57
Positive episode	27

Table 2: Estimated average costs of a chlamydia screen—including partner management costs

Item	*Estimated average cost (£)*
Screening offer	14.88
Testing episode	21.83
Positive episode	38.36

Copies of the research have been placed in the Library.

Contraceptives: Prescriptions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on (i) the effectiveness and (ii) the safety of the Mirena contraceptive device; whether he has any plans to make this contraceptive device available on NHS prescription; and if he will make a statement. [158309]

Dawn Primarolo: Mirena is an intrauterine device (IUD) that releases a medicine, levonorgestrel, directly into the uterus. It is authorised for contraception, reduction of heavy menstrual bleeding (menorrhagia) and protection from endometrial hyperplasia during oestrogen replacement therapy. Since Mirena first became available in the United Kingdom women have been able to obtain it through the national health service.

The Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA), together with independent expert advice for the Commission on Human Medicines is responsible for ensuring that medicines, including Mirena, have met appropriate standards of efficacy, safety and quality before they are granted a marketing authorisation and for ensuring that the benefits of treatment continue to outweigh the risks post authorisation, as further evidence emerges.

In addition to efficacy studies conducted by the marketing authorisation holder, Schering Health, prior to grant of a marketing authorisation, the Department has funded a number of studies to evaluate the effectiveness of Mirena (mainly in the indication of menstrual bleeding). These include the ongoing ECLIPSE randomised controlled trial in 1,200 women with menorrhagia.

The MHRA monitors the safety of all medicines, including Mirena, by evaluating data including adverse reaction reports received through the Yellow Card Scheme, published data, company studies and safety reviews, and information from other regulatory authorities. The benefits associated with Mirena are currently considered to outweigh the risks in its licensed indications.

The safety of Mirena was recently subject to European review and this has lead to a recommendation to clarify advice about the recognised risks of ectopic pregnancy and uterine perforation. As a precautionary measure, Mirena will be contraindicated in women with progesterone-dependent cancers. The product information for health professionals is being updated to reflect this advice.

The marketing authorisation holder is planning two studies: one to compare the risk of breast cancer in Mirena users with the risk in copper IUD users and users of other hormonal contraceptives and the other to compare the risk of uterine perforation in Mirena users with that in copper IUD users.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157000]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156736]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold detailed records of laptops, mobile telephones and personal digital assistant (PDA) devices provided specifically to Ministers since 1997. However, the policy is to provide Ministers with one laptop, one mobile telephone, and one PDA each, where they have declared a requirement for such equipment. This equipment is usually new but may be re-allocated

equipment depending on age and condition of the device. When a Minister leaves the Department the equipment is returned for re-allocation.

Following this year's Cabinet reshuffle, the six current Ministers have been allocated a total of five laptops, one mobile phone and four Blackberry devices which have dual mobile phone and PDA functionality. The team of Ministers before the reshuffle were allocated four laptops, five mobile phones and four Blackberry devices.

Departments: Marie Stopes International Conference

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the Ministers from his Department who will be *(a)* attending and *(b)* speaking at the Marie Stopes International Conference being held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on 23-24 October; whether his Department will be contributing (i) direct funding, (ii) informal support and (iii) personnel; whether there are restrictions on the use of these contributions; whether officials from his Department will (A) attend and (B) participate; if he will place in the Library any material produced for the conference by his Department; what discussions his Department has had with the Department for International Development on this conference; and if he will make a statement. [158310]

Dawn Primarolo: No Ministers from the Department of Health are attending or speaking at the Marie Stopes International Conference being held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on 23-24 October 2007.

The Department has contributed no funding, informal support or personnel to the event.

Three officials from the Department will be attending the event and will participate in breakout sessions along with other conference delegates.

No materials have been produced for the conference by the Department.

Ministers from both the Department and the Department for International Development were invited to speak at the conference. There was correspondence between the Departments about attendance but due to business and travel pressures neither Minister was able to attend.

Drugs: Licensing

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to allow the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to undertake appraisals of medicines prior to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency granting them a product licence. [158461]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Single Technology Appraisal process, NICE can already start to conduct an appraisal of a medicine when its marketing authorisation is imminent. However, NICE is unable to publish its final guidance until the medicine has received its marketing authorisation.

Health Services

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential impact on health outcomes of instructions to consultants by primary care trusts to reduce by 40 per cent. follow-up appointments. [158155]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* We are not aware of any blanket instructions by primary care trusts (PCTs) to consultants to reduce follow-up by 40 per cent. As good practice we would expect PCTs to be working with primary and secondary care clinicians to identify areas where redesign of the patient pathway can eliminate clinically unnecessary appointments, thereby speeding up and improving the patient experience. But this must be taken forward on the basis of clinical appropriateness.

Health Services: Education

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS bodies on contributing to health awareness weeks; and if he will make a statement. [158425]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not issue formal guidance to national health service bodies on contributing to health awareness weeks. Participation by individual NHS organisations in such events is arranged at local level.

Where the Department is directly involved in organising awareness weeks, for example National Breastfeeding Awareness Week, it will promote the event to health care professionals and make resources available for use in local activities. For National Breastfeeding Awareness Week, the Department has provided resources such as posters and leaflets.

Where the Department supports awareness weeks organised by third parties it will work with major stakeholders to promote the event to health care professionals through newsletters and other existing channels.

Healthcare Purchasing Consortium: Finance

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the Healthcare Purchasing Consortium spent in 2006-07; and what it is forecast to spend in 2007-08; [158675]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings achieved within the NHS by the Healthcare Purchasing Consortium in 2006-07; and what estimate he has made of the expected equivalent figure for 2007-08. [158676]

Mr. Bradshaw: The spend by the NHS Healthcare Purchasing Consortium on strategic sourcing activity for 2006-07 and expected forecast for 2007-08 is as follows:

	Expenditure (£)
2006-07	5,163,000
2007-08	5,913,500

The savings achieved by the NHS Healthcare Purchasing Consortium for member trusts during 2006-07 and expected forecast for 2007-08 is as follows:

	Savings (£)
2006-07	19,100,000
2007-08	26,900,000

Herbal Medicine: EC Law

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the numbers of herbal products currently on sale in the United Kingdom which will require registration under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive if they are to remain on the market; by what date applications for registrations must be made to ensure continuity of supply; and by what date the products will become illegal if not successfully registered; [157225]

(2) how many applications for registration have been received by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency; and how many positive decisions the Agency has taken to register herbal products under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [157226]

(3) what assessment he has made of the number of herbal products which are likely to become unavailable to specialist retailers as a result of the inability or reluctance of manufacturers to submit applications for registration of such products under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and if he will make a statement; [157227]

(4) what steps are being taken by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to maximise the opportunities afforded under the Traditional Herbal Medicines Products Directive and other legislation to allow the continued availability of long-established herbal products whilst maintaining appropriate safety standards. [157231]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has so far received applications for traditional herbal registration in relation to 29 products from a total of nine different companies. Five registrations have been granted and the other 24 applications are under assessment. In the light of discussions with individual companies, the MHRA expects steady growth in the number of applications received and registrations granted. The rate of build up of the scheme is reflective of the extent to which many companies needed to acquire expertise, for example in the manufacture of herbal medicines to systematic quality standards, before they could be in a position to submit applications.

Under provisions in Directive 2004/24 /EC, unlicensed herbal medicines legally on the United Kingdom market at 30 April 2004 under section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968 received transitional protection until 30 April 2011. Following discussions with industry and the former Better Regulation Task Force the MHRA decided not to require companies to notify the agency of products for which transitional protection was claimed. Accordingly, there is no estimate of the number of products on the UK market being sold legally under section 12(2) but which cannot legally be placed on the market after 30 April 2011.

We do not believe it is realistic to specify a date by which applications need to be made in order to secure continuity of supply. Time taken by the MHRA to assess applications depends on a number of factors including the quality of the application and how quickly the applicant responds to queries raised by the MHRA. The MHRA is giving extensive help to the industry through individual company meetings. Guidance to industry has stressed the importance of companies progressing their applications now if they wish to ensure continuity of supply.

Hospitals: Petitions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he was *(a)* informed and *(b)* given sight of the recent petition from Surrey residents on the future of hospital services in the county; and if he will make a statement. [156913]

Dawn Primarolo: I responded to the petition on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 17 July 2007.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which industries he has deemed essential in the event of an influenza pandemic; and what support will be provided to them by the Government. [156771]

Dawn Primarolo: Whether it would be necessary to consider particular industries as essential in the event of an influenza pandemic is kept under review. As part of that process we will consider the results of the public engagement programme, designed to increase the Government's understanding of public attitudes to pandemic preparedness, that is planned for autumn 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what total expenditure was on research into pharmaceutical interventions for use in the event of an influenza pandemic from *(a)* his Department's research and development budget, *(b)* the Medical Research Council and *(c)* other sources of public funding in each year since 1997-98. [156773]

Dawn Primarolo: Many pharmaceutical interventions that would be used in an influenza pandemic (such as antiviral drugs and antibiotics) are also used for other purposes, and research conducted for such purposes would inform our response in an influenza pandemic. Research on seasonal influenza vaccines is also relevant to the development and use of vaccines for use in pandemic influenza.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number concerned with influenza are available on the national research register at:

www.nrr.nhs.uk.

The Department has also provided support from its research and development budget to a number of projects relevant to pharmaceutical interventions in an influenza pandemic.

Over the next five years, the Department of Health has committed, through the National Institute for Health Research, £2.59 million to projects related to vaccines and immunity in the context of influenza. In December 2005, the Medical Research Council announced a £13.5 million initiative for research relevant to pandemic influenza. A number of other publicly funded bodies also support research relevant to pandemic influenza.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Home Department on the 25 per cent. clinical attack rate assumed for planning purposes in the Home Office's consultation document Planning for a possible influenza pandemic—a framework to manage deaths—consultation, published on 30 August 2007; what his latest estimate is of the most likely clinical attack rate in the event of an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [156775]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department meets regularly with Home Office officials to discuss planning for pandemic influenza. The United Kingdom's plans are based on a range of attack rates from 25 per cent. up to a reasonable worst case of 50 per cent. This range is reflected in the draft Home Office guidance 'Planning for a possible influenza pandemic—A framework for planners preparing to manage deaths'.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in developing a clinically-based algorithm for use by call handlers in the event of an influenza pandemic. [156776]

Dawn Primarolo: Development of the clinically-based algorithm for use by call handlers is now being led by NHS Direct; the algorithm is due to be tested in the last quarter of 2007.

Influenza: Vaccinations

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* each strategic health authority, *(b)* each primary care trust and *(c)* England will be eligible for the free influenza vaccine this winter; and if he will make a statement. [157235]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are not collected centrally for each strategic health authority or each primary care trust. We estimate that 14.2 million people are eligible for the influenza vaccine in England.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many influenza vaccination doses *(a)* are available and *(b)* will be available this winter to those eligible for the free winter influenza vaccine in each (i) strategic health authority, (ii) primary care trust and (iii) England; and if he will make a statement; [157236]

(2) how many doses of influenza vaccination are available in 2007 for *(a)* strategic health authorities, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* doctors surgeries to purchase this winter; and if he will make a statement. [157237]

Dawn Primarolo: The UK Vaccine Industry Group has agreed to make over 15 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine available this winter for the United Kingdom. So far, over 4.4 million doses have been delivered. The information is not available by strategic health authority or primary care trust.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of eligible pensioners who receive influenza vaccinations. [158003]

Dawn Primarolo: We announced our seasonal influenza campaign on 28 September, incorporating a number of strategies aimed at encouraging people aged 65 years and over to receive their flu immunisation. The campaign incorporates:

national TV advertising;

advertising in national and regional newspapers and magazines, including ethnic media;

advertising on pharmacy bags;

work with voluntary organisations and commercial stakeholders such as the Alzheimer's society, AFTAID, Arthritic Association, British Heart Foundation, Lloyds Pharmacy, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Superdrug and Morrison's pharmacists.

The Chief Medical Officer also wrote to all general practitioners with details of this year's flu vaccination programme in his letter of 30 March 2007. This provides surgeries with a number of months to plan their vaccination programme.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to issue guidance to NHS trusts on how they should prioritise their staff for receiving a pandemic-specific vaccine in the event of an influenza pandemic. [158462]

Dawn Primarolo: The pandemic vaccination strategy will be determined by an assessment of the strength of the virus, and its impact on the population. As this assessment can only take place once the virus has emerged, specific advice on the vaccination of any part of the population, including health care workers, can only be issued at that point.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he will issue guidance to employers on the stockpiling of clinical counter-measures for use in an influenza pandemic, with reference to his letter sent to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire, dated 2 October 2007, reference PO00000234688. [158469]

Dawn Primarolo: No central guidance has been issued to employers wishing to stockpile clinical countermeasures. Employers who are considering this as part of their business continuity planning should do so in conjunction with their own occupational health advisers. The National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic includes information in relation to stockpiling and use of clinical countermeasures. Work is also progressing on testing a clinical algorithm/protocol as part of the process for providing access to antivirals.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Pay

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid to Rose Gibb, the former chief executive of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust, upon the termination of her employment. [158719]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: The employment of staff, clinicians and managers within the national health service is a matter for local NHS Boards. In the case of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells we have asked the NHS trust to withhold any severance payment to the former chief executive prior to the Department considering legal advice on the matter.

Maternity Services: Sussex

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born while their mothers were in the process of travelling to *(a)* Brighton hospital and *(b)* Worthing hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [157256]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Medical Equipment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1226W, on medical equipment, when he plans to take a decision as to whether to procure and stockpile face masks centrally. [156750]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is progressing work to ensure that the appropriate face masks are made available to health care and social care workers during a pandemic. An announcement will be made in relation to this issue as soon as it is possible to do so.

NHS: Reorganisation

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what briefing Lord Darzi received on the proposals to downgrade Worthing and Chichester hospitals before his recent interview on GMTV. [157255]

Ann Keen: Lord Darzi is aware of the current consultation on the future of health services in West Sussex.

NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of backlog maintenance was in the NHS in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07 *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by NHS organisation. [158472]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total backlog maintenance for England is provided in the following table.

	Total backlog maintenance (£ million)
1997-98	2,836
1998-99	3,027
1999-2000	3,108
2000-01	3,242
2001-02	3,378
2002-03	3,517
2003-04	3,193
2004-05	3,142
2005-06	3,684
2006-07	3,740

Information for national health service organisations has been placed in the Library.

The data are as provided by the national health service and have not been amended centrally. Their accuracy and completeness is the responsibility of the provider organisation. Trusts that have not provided data or have provided a zero response have been omitted for brevity.

Investment to reduce backlog maintenance will be prioritised locally based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. The majority of the backlog maintenance relates to low priority work, which will be undertaken through ongoing maintenance programmes or replacement of facilities. Where higher risks are present, work will be undertaken as a priority.

Obesity: Fertility

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on links between obesity and infertility; and if he will make a statement. [158308]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a small number concerned with the relationship between obesity and fertility are available on the national research register at

www.nrr.nhs.uk.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC is not currently funding research specifically relating to the causal links between obesity and fertility. As part of a portfolio of more general research relating to the various causes of infertility however, the MRC has recently allocated £300,000 for the following research project on polycystic ovarian syndrome that links the symptoms of obesity and infertility:

Dr. W. C. Duncan, University of Edinburgh—Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome: modelling development, phenotype and progression using a developmental paradigm.

Obesity: Pupils

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the medical testing of school children for obesity is conducted on a parental opt-out basis; and if he will make a statement. [157253]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Child Measurement programme (NCMP) gathers population level surveillance data and informs local planning and service delivery, and allows for the analysis of trends in growth patterns and obesity.

The NCMP is conducted on an opt-out basis. Our guidance states clearly that:

the privacy and dignity of the child is safeguarded at all times and the measurement is done sensitively in a private setting

height and weight information should be gathered with minimal physical contact by health professionals (as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998).

parents receive a letter explaining the purpose of the programme, and provide them with the opportunity to withdraw their child from it.

Patients: Smoking

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of hospital beds occupied by smokers. [156770]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not collected centrally.

According to the latest data available, smoking kills an estimated 87,000 people a year in England, about one-fifth of all deaths, and leads to an extra 560,000 admissions to hospital.

Source:

Information Centre Statistics on Smoking 2006 and relates to 2004-05.

This bulletin is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/smoking07

Primary Care Trusts: Elderly

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list by primary care trust area the areas in England with the highest proportion of residents over the age of retirement per head of population for the latest year in which figures are available. [157012]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding Primary Care Trust areas in England with the highest proportion of residents over the age of retirement per head of population for the latest year in which figures are available (157012).

The latest population estimates available by primary care trust are for mid-2005. Table 1 shows the percentage of the population over retirement age by Primary Care Organisation. These estimates will be revised shortly.

Estimates for mid-2006 and revised estimates for mid-2002 to mid-2005 will be published on 23 October 2007. These estimates are being revised to include improved international migration estimates. ONS has made improvements this year to the methods used for distributing international migrants to local areas as part of its "Improving Migration and Population Statistics" work programme. Please note therefore that the mid-2005 estimates provided here are not comparable with the revised 2005 mid-year estimates by Local Authority.

Table 1: percentage of the population of primary care organisations[1] in England over the age of retirement in mid-2005 in descending order

	Percentage of the population over state pension age[2]
England	19
Dorset	27
Hastings and Rother	26
Torbay	26
East Sussex Downs and Weald	26
Isle of Wight National Health Service	26
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	25
Devon	24
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	24
Norfolk	24
North Lancashire	24
North East Essex	23
Herefordshire	23
West Sussex	23
Bournemouth and Poole	23
Somerset	23
North Somerset	23
Lincolnshire	23
East Riding of Yorkshire	23
Sefton	22
Shropshire County	22
Blackpool	22
Cumbria	22
South East Essex	22
Northumberland	21
North Yorkshire and York	21
Eastern and Coastal Kent	21
Wirral	21
Western Cheshire	21
Suffolk	21
North Staffordshire	21
Redcar and Cleveland	21
South Tyneside	21
Gloucestershire	21
North Tyneside	20
North Lincolnshire	20
Solihull	20
Havering	20
Dudley	20
Derbyshire County	20
Gateshead	20
Bath and North East Somerset	20
Worcestershire	20
Central and Eastern Cheshire	20
Bassetlaw	20
Stockport	20
County Durham	20
Wiltshire	20
Nottinghamshire County	20
Hampshire	20
North East Lincolnshire	20
Walsall Teaching	20

Table 1: percentage of the population of primary care organisations[1] in England over the age of retirement in mid-2005 in descending order

	Percentage of the population over state pension age[2]
Darlington	20
Doncaster	19
South Staffordshire	19
Bromley	19
Wolverhampton City	19
Warwickshire	19
Leicestershire County and Rutland	19
Surrey	19
Barnsley	19
Stoke on Trent	19
Hartlepool	19
West Kent	19
West Essex	19
Rotherham	19
Trafford	19
Sandwell	19
Sunderland Teaching	19
Bexley	19
Sheffield	19
Plymouth Teaching	19
Wakefield District	18
Derby City	18
Central Lancashire	18
Mid Essex	18
South Gloucestershire	18
East Lancashire	18
Salford	18
Calderdale	18
Halton and St. Helens	18
Buckinghamshire	18
East and North Hertfordshire	18
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	18
Bury	18
West Hertfordshire	18
Knowsley	18
Warrington	18
Cambridgeshire	18
South West Essex	18
Tameside and Glossop	18
Birmingham East and North	18
Bolton	18
Leeds	18
Coventry Teaching	17
Middlesbrough	17
North Tees	17
South Birmingham	17
Newcastle	17
Oxfordshire	17
Kirklees	17
Northamptonshire	17
Oldham	17
Brighton and Hove City	17
Hull	17
Bedfordshire	17
Liverpool	17
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	17
Portsmouth City Teaching	17
Peterborough	17
Harrow	17
Swindon	16
Bradford and Airedale	16
Bristol	16
Southampton City	16
Barnet	16
Telford and Wrekin	16
Enfield	16
Medway	16
Hillingdon	16
Berkshire West	15
Sutton and Merton	15
Redbridge	15
Barking and Dagenham	15
Blackburn with Darwen	15
Berkshire East	15
Nottingham City	15
Croydon	15
Leicester City	15
Luton	15
Richmond and Twickenham	14
Kingston	14
Manchester	14
Brent Teaching	14
Greenwich Teaching	14
Ealing	13
Hounslow	13
Kensington and Chelsea	13
Waltham Forest	13
Milton Keynes	13
Westminster	12
Lewisham	12
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	12
Hammersmith and Fulham	11
Southwark	11
Wandsworth	11
Haringey Teaching	11
Islington	11
Camden	11
City and Hackney Teaching	11
Lambeth	10
Newham	10
Tower Hamlets	10

[1] These data are on boundaries that were in place on 1 October 2006, and include 148 primary care trusts and four care trusts.
[2] State pension age includes males aged 65 and over and females aged 60 and over.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Smoking: Fines

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the likely number of fines to be issued for non-compliance with the public smoking ban in the first year of operation in England. [158187]

Dawn Primarolo: From the commencement of smokefree legislation in England on Sunday, 1 July 2007 levels of compliance have been very high.

Levels of compliance are fully in line with the Department's expectations set out in the regulatory impact assessment for the legislation which are based on the experiences of other jurisdictions that have introduced comprehensive smokefree legislation.

Based on data collected from local authorities across England 98.7 per cent. of premises and vehicles required to be smokefree inspected in August were found to be fully compliant with the law. Full information is published at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/thefacts/national-compliance-data.html

A small number of formal enforcement actions have been taken by local authorities, with 45 fixed penalty notices issued (26 in one area) and three court actions having been taken in the period 1 July to 31 August 2007.

Smokefree legislation is supported by over three-quarters of people in England and the high levels of compliance to date is an clear indication that the objective of the new law—to protect people from secondhand smoke is being met.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis West Sussex primary care trust is of the view that its share of the NHS budget will increase by 4.5 per cent. a year over the next few years from 2007-08, as stated in its consultation document "Fit for the Future: modernising healthcare in West Sussex"; whether this figure relates to real-terms increases or cash-terms increases; and if he will make a statement. [157007]

Dawn Primarolo: No decision have yet been made about the timing of revenue allocations to primary care trusts for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

The West Sussex primary care trust should be able to provide further information regarding the figures quoted in its consultation document, "Fit for the Future: Modernising Healthcare in West Sussex", if required

Worthing Hospital

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if *(a)* he, *(b)* Lord Darzi and *(c)* the Chief Executive of the NHS will visit Worthing Hospital. [157840]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State for Health, Lord Darzi and David Nicholson, the NHS chief executive all make regular visits to national health service facilities across the country. Invitations are of course considered on a case by case basis and will depend upon diary pressures and parliamentary business. Therefore, if the hon. Member wishes to, he may send a formal request to Ministers.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the proposal from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges that facilities at Worthing Hospital in West Sussex Primary Care Trust be downgraded. [157016]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for local primary care trusts in conjunction with other local stakeholders and their strategic health authorities (SHAs) to make assessments of current and future health needs and to commission services accordingly.

South East Coast SHA has advised officials that it has provided a response to the report which can be found at the SHA's website:

www.southeastcoast.nhs.uk/news/Newsrelease24.09.07.asp

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 18 October 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Leader of the House what guidance her Office follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158589]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons' Office aims to respond to hon. Members' correspondence within 15 working days. During August 2007 this was achieved for 91 per cent. of MPs' and Peers' correspondence received. For the year 2006, the target was achieved for 95 per cent. of MPs' correspondence and 97 peers of Peers' correspondence.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House how many websites her Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running her Department's websites in the last five years. [157905]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons Office operate one website and has done so since June 2003. From April 2006 until March 2007 the annual cost of running the website was £7,050. From April 2007 until October 2007 the cost has been £4,112,50. Following a Machinery of Government change, information prior to 2006-07 financial year is available only at disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by her Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157906]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons Office website has received a total of 6,894,877 hits since 1 January 2007.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157903]

Helen Goodman: Following a machinery of government change, detailed information on expenditure incurred in the 2006-07 financial year is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff are seconded to her Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157904]

Helen Goodman: There are currently 20 members of staff who are seconded to the Cabinet Office from outside of Government. This figure includes five members of staff from the Houses of Parliament. The Houses of Parliament do not form part of the civil service. The following table lists (a) the outside body from which each has been seconded from and (b) length of each secondment:

Outside body	*Number of staff*	*Length of secondment (Years)*
Houses of Parliament	1	2
	4	<1
Arts Council England	1	<1
Essex Police	1	1
Hays	1	3
London Fire Brigade	1	<1
Macclesfield Council	1	1
Metropolitan Police	2	3
Middlesex University	1	<1
National Centre for Social Research	1	1
The Fourth Sector	1	<1
Price Waterhouse Coopers	1	<1
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)	1	<1
Surrey County Council	1	<1
Bank of England	1	2
The Work Foundation	1	<1

[1] From start date to current date

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what percentage of questions tabled for answer on a named day received a substantive answer on the day due in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by answering Department. [158051]

Helen Goodman: Individual Departments are responsible for keeping their own records on the timeliness of answers and providing this information to the House when requested by the Public Administration Committee or through Members' questions. To provide this information centrally could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The last available figures of the Leader of the House of Commons Office relate to the 2005-06 session. These show that 100 per cent. of the 71 named day questions tabled were answered on the date specified.

Members: Pensions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* debates and *(b)* votes there have been on the subject of hon. Members' pensions since 1997. [157367]

Helen Goodman: The following debates and votes relating to Members' pensions have been identified by the Journal Office as having taken place on the Floor of the House since 1997:

5 July 2001 (implementation of the elements of the 2001 SSRB report relating to MPs' pensions):

Motion on Parliamentary Pensions (divisions on amendments moved by hon. Members for Bournemouth, West (Sir John Butterfill) and for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Dr. Harris)).

3 November 2004 (implementation of the elements of the 2004 SSRB report relating to MPs' pensions):

(1) Motion on Parliamentary Pensions (Contribution Rate);

(2) Motion on Parliamentary Pensions (Survivor Benefits and Early Retirement).

In addition, there was a debate in a delegated legislation Committee on 23 July 2002 on the Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (S.I., 2002, No 1807) (followed by a division).

Parliamentary Scrutiny: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to improve scrutiny of European Union legislation. [157578]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Lady to my answer during oral questions on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 19.

TRANSPORT

A12: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on upgrading the A12 in Essex to motorway standard; and if she will make a statement. [158421]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State is not aware of any recent representations for upgrading the A12 to motorway standard. Following the recommendations of the M25 to Ipswich multi-modal study in 2002, the Secretary of State asked the Highways Agency to carry out further appraisal for upgrading the A12 between the M25 and Colchester.

In July 2006 the Secretary of State accepted the advice of the East of England's Regional Assembly on regional transport investment priorities, not to prioritise the A12 for funding in the period up to 2015-16. It will be for the Region to reconsider in the review of the Regional Funding Allocations due in 2008.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the cost of upgrading the A12 in Essex to motorway standard. [158422]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The A12 all purpose trunk road in Essex is a mixture of dual two and three lane carriageways of varying standard. There are no proposals to upgrade the A12 to motorway standard and consequently no assessment work has been undertaken. Hence no costs for upgrading the A12 to motorway standard are available.

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what Government research has been undertaken into the independent mobility needs of *(a)* people with mental health problems, *(b)* partially sighted people, *(c)* people with severe learning and/or behavioural difficulties and *(d)* people with severe autism to determine their eligibility for a Blue Badge; [158032]

(2) whether her Department has issued, on behalf of all four UK Administrations, guidance specifying the criteria for further assessment of applicants for Blue Badge parking permits; [158033]

(3) whether children under two years old whose medical needs require the transport of bulky equipment at all times have been made eligible under the Blue Badge disabled parking scheme; [158034]

(4) what progress her Department has made towards ensuring nationally consistent eligibility criteria for those subject to further assessment under the Blue Badge disabled parking scheme; [158035]

(5) whether assessments of independent mobility for the Blue Badge parking scheme are routinely undertaken by a health professional other than the applicant's GP; [158041]

(6) whether, where entitlement to a Blue Badge is linked to receipt of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance, the period of issue is linked to that of receipt of the allowance; [158042]

(7) what progress has been made towards establishing a national, centrally funded, database of Blue Badge holders; [158043]

(8) whether Blue Badge applicants automatically entitled by their receipt of the higher rate mobility component of the disability living allowance are required to give explicit consent to the sharing of personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998. [158044]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Research into the mobility needs of certain disability groups who may not be eligible for the Blue Badge under the current eligibility criteria, was completed earlier this year. This included people with severe autism, mental health difficulties, learning and/or behavioural difficulties and people who are partially sighted. The findings were considered as part of the strategic review of the scheme, which reported to me in September and will contribute to the publication of a comprehensive Blue Badge reform strategy by April 2008.

All English authorities will be issued with revised guidance later this year. As responsibility for the scheme is devolved in the UK, the Administrations for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are producing their own guidance separately.

Following changes I announced recently, children under the age of two, who are dependent upon bulky medical equipment, have been eligible for a badge under the scheme from 15 October 2007.

The Department for Transport recognises the need to promote greater consistency of assessment. This is a key theme which is being addressed through our

strategic review and forthcoming Blue Badge reform strategy. The revised local authority guidance, due for publication later this year, will also help to clarify the assessed eligibility process.

The medical assessment practice varies between different local authorities. We are committed to actively promoting good practice guidance in this area and are engaging with the Department of Health on this issue.

From 15 October 2007, certain badges are now linked to the receipt and issue period of both the higher rate mobility component of the disability living allowance and war pensioners' mobility supplement.

Research into the feasibility of a national database was completed earlier this year. The findings were considered as part of the strategic review of the scheme, which will contribute to the publication of a comprehensive Blue Badge reform strategy by April 2008.

All local authorities have a duty to comply with the Data Protection Act 1988. The revised local authority guidance, due for publication later this year, will provide additional advice on this area and a model data protection statement for Blue Badge applicants to complete.

Car Hire: Regulation

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislation covers the regulation of car hire companies; and when the last review of these provisions was undertaken. [154747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport is not aware of any legislation relating specifically to the regulation of car hire companies.

However, the Disability Discrimination (Transport Vehicles) Regulations 2005 [SI 2005/3190], which came into force on 4 December 2006, do cover "hire vehicles" (the definition of which is relevant to vehicles hired out by car hire companies).

The 2005 regulations effectively disapplied certain exemptions contained in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in respect of particular types of vehicle, including "hire vehicles". As a result, car hire companies (like other vehicle-hire firms covered by the 2005 regulations) can no longer discriminate against disabled persons when providing vehicles.

Departments: Fixed Penalties

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157919]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies maintain the policy that road traffic violations such as parking tickets and speeding fines remain the responsibility of the individual, and are not reimbursed from public resources. Three of the Department's agencies record penalties incurred by their drivers on official business, and these amounted to a total of 17 in financial year 2006-07. No financial cost was incurred by the Department.

The exception to this is the Government Car and Despatch Agency which pays parking fines incurred operationally in circumstances where the overriding security requirements of high profile passengers or secure or sensitive documents necessarily dictate the choice of parking location. 73 such fines were paid in financial year 2006-07, at a total cost of £5,898.02.

Metronet: Insolvency

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the debts left to the public sector following Metronet's failure to fulfil its contract with London Underground; and how she expects those debts to be met. [157848]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for Metronet's Administrators, working with Transport for London and London Underground, to identify the best route out of Administration. In advance of their conclusions, it continues to be inappropriate to speculate on any public sector financial impacts and, therefore, how such impacts would be handled.

Railways: Performance Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the performance of First Capital Connect services between Peterborough and London over the last five years. [158961]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since the commencement of the First Capital Connect (FCC) franchise on 1 April 2006, the Public Performance Measure (PPM) Moving Annual Average for the Great Northern route, which includes services between Peterborough and London, has increased from 89.56 per cent. to 92.35 per cent. in the most recent complete operating period. FCC recently achieved a period PPM of 96.09 per cent. on the GN route, which is the highest achieved since franchising in the 1990s.

Railways: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail passengers travelled on railway lines in Wales in each year since 1992; and if she will make a statement. [158971]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the services provided within Wales and across the border by Arriva Trains Wales. Details of the number of passengers who have travelled on railway lines in Wales each year since 1992 are not held by the Department for Transport.

Statistics on numbers of passengers on the railway network are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Library or from their website: www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway carriages were used on railway lines in Wales in each year since 1992; how many seats were provided in those carriages in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [158972]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the services provided within Wales and across the border by Arriva Trains Wales. Details of the number of carriages that were used on railway lines in Wales in each year since 1992 and the number of seats provided in those carriages are not held by the Department.

Road Traffic

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which local authorities have submitted bids for funding from the congestion element of the Transport Innovation Fund in each year since its creation; and which were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected; [158106]

(2) which local authorities have applied for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund; which have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected; and what form of congestion charging, road pricing or workplace parking taxes the successful ones are proposing. [158107]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Money from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) will become available from 2008-09. Ten areas have been awarded pump-priming funding to support the development of Transport Innovation Fund packages that address local congestion problems combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport. So far one substantive TIF bid for funding has been received. The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) have submitted a business case for Transport Innovation Fund funding for a package to tackle congestion by combining transport investment and road pricing. Details are available on http://www.gmfuturetransport.co.uk/. We are currently assessing the case.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were on the A14 in Suffolk in each year since 1997; and how many involved drivers under the age of 21 years in each case. [159209]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Number of reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk; 1997-2006

	Accidents (a)	*Fatalities (b)*
1997	128	7
1998	123	2
1999	122	8
2000	138	8
2001	138	10
2002	157	5
2003	128	3
2004	143	5
2005	150	4
2006	119	6

Number of reported personal injury road accidents involving drivers under the age of 21 and resulting fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk:1997-2006

	Accidents (a)	*Fatalities (b)*
1997	21	1
1998	26	1
1999	21	1
2000	22	0
2001	26	1
2002	27	1
2003	29	0
2004	28	0
2005	28	0
2006	28	0

Taxis

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provisions control whether hackney carriages outside London may collect customers after being hailed off the street, outside a taxi rank. [158108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The law allows the drivers of licensed hackney carriages to accept immediate hirings from passengers either when the cabs are standing at a rank or in response to a hailing in the street. The drivers are, however, only permitted to accept such hirings while located in the area for which they are licensed. If a driver drops off a passenger outside his own licensing area he cannot respond to a street hailing (or stand at a rank) until he returns to his own licensing area.

Vehicles: Insurance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the number of uninsured vehicles in the Greater London area. [159008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our latest estimate for the United Kingdom is that in 2005 there were about 2.1 million licensed vehicles being driven uninsured (about 6.5 per cent. of the UK vehicle fleet). Information is not held by area.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which beneficiaries of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund received more than £50,000 in any one year in each year since the inception of the levy. [158548]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund database contains details of overall amounts paid out to projects from April 2004 onwards, but we do not have annual payments recorded centrally. I have arranged for a list of beneficiaries that have received over £50,000 from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, since April 2004, to be placed in the Library of the House.

Agriculture: Floods

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to applying for EU emergency funds under Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to compensate farmers for flood damage to crops and livestock. [154039]

Mr. Woolas: Articles 87 and 88 of the European Community Treaty do not provide access to European Union (EU) emergency funds. The categories (which also include the guidelines and regulations that have since been formulated on this issue) relate to aid, funded by individual member states rather than the EU, that we are allowed to pay in certain circumstances (state aid).

The UK has submitted an application to the EU Solidarity Fund in the wake of this summer's flooding. However, the purpose of the fund is to assist member state Governments with costs that arise from the relief efforts and those of returning infrastructure to the condition it was in before the disaster occurred. It is unlikely that compensation to private business, including farmers, for losses arising from the floods would be eligible. As part of the application process, the Government will agree with the Commission how any support received from the Solidarity Fund will be used.

Battery Hens: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the release of the report on the progress of the transition towards the ban on battery cages for egg production due to come into effect in 2012; [157719]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the Laying Hens Directive will have on the number of eggs imported into the UK from outside the EU; and if he will make a statement; [157720]

(3) what assessment he has made of the state of readiness of the British egg industry to implement the Laying Hens Directive, with particular reference to the banning of battery cages for egg production from 2012. [157718]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) recently met with Commissioner Kyprianou and stressed the urgency of publishing the Commission's report. The report will consider the various systems for keeping laying hens, their health and environmental impact, socio-economic implications and effects on the Community's economic partners.

A regulatory impact assessment was produced in 2002 when Council Directive 99/74/EC was transposed into domestic legislation. This will be updated in the light of the Commission's report and will consider such aspects as the impact of the 2012 conventional cage ban on the industry and trading patterns. Currently, over half of UK egg production is from caged birds although, during the last few years, there has been a shift in production methods in the UK from conventional cages to enriched cages and alternative systems.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the report Badgers and Cattle TB: Final Report of the Independent Scientific Group was peer reviewed; who peer reviewed it; what feedback was received from the peer review; and if he will make a statement. [157271]

Jonathan Shaw: The Independent Scientific Group's (ISG) Final Report as whole has not been peer-reviewed. However, most of the work has been published in leading, independently peer-reviewed scientific journals. Appendix J of the Report (available on the DEFRA website and in the Libraries of the House) summarises their published scientific papers and other important published material.

Formal independent audits of core aspects of the trial were undertaken at appropriate intervals. These included the field procedures of surveying, social group delineation and badger removal, welfare aspects of the way trapped badgers were dispatched, post-mortem protocols and bacteriological culture procedures, as well as procedures for data collection, handling and statistical analysis. Appendix E of the Report lists the programme of audits undertaken throughout the trial.

The ISG webpage, which lists their publications, can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/isg/isgpublications.htm

and reports of the independent audits that have been carried out can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/culling/p5aud.htm.

Carbon Emissions: Personal Income

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has commissioned research on the carbon footprint of those on low incomes compared to those on high incomes. [158538]

Mr. Woolas: As part of its pre-feasibility study into personal carbon trading, the Government will be looking at, among other things, carbon footprints of different groups to assess the equity impact of personal carbon trading.

This will follow initial work conducted by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) in November 2006, entitled "A Rough Guide to Individual Carbon Trading". One of the findings of this report was that, in general, those on lower incomes tend to emit less carbon dioxide than average, while those on higher incomes tend to emit more carbon dioxide than average. A personal carbon trading system might have the potential to achieve emissions savings in a fairer way than a carbon tax.

A recent piece of work by the CSE, commissioned by DEFRA to help inform development of the post-2011 supplier obligation, further illustrates the correlation between income level and carbon emissions. This study also draws out important variations within income bands, showing that some low-income households have very high consumption levels and some high-income households have very low consumption levels.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy that *(a)* any carbon budget he sets out for 2008 to 2012 will require a lower level of emissions in that period than in the preceding five years and *(b)* that every future budget period will be set at a level lower than its predecessor. [158343]

Mr. Woolas: As set out in the draft Climate Change Bill, the independent Committee on Climate Change will advise the Government on the emissions reduction pathway to achieve the 2020 and 2050 targets. The Committee will advise specifically on the level of carbon budgets, taking into account where carbon savings can be achieved across the economy and the optimum balance between domestic action and international trading in carbon allowances.

Its first task will be to advise the Government on the first three five-year carbon budgets by 1 September 2008.

Carbon Sequestration: Peat

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the merits of natural peatlands as net absorbers of carbon dioxide; and what measures are in place to protect peatlands to combat greenhouse gas emissions. [157979]

Mr. Woolas: Peatlands are a significant store of carbon in the UK and require protection. A substantial proportion of these are found in Scotland. However, in terms of absorbing carbon dioxide, the potential is limited, due to their slow growth.

DEFRA is currently seeking to develop its understanding of the risks to this carbon store and to investigate the best means of protecting peatlands and the biodiversity they support. The Department is in the process of setting up a cross-governmental project that is intended to form part of DEFRA's new soil strategy for England. This will ensure that DEFRA and its agencies co-ordinate their activity on peat soils and liaise effectively with the devolved Administrations as well as identifying best practice for protecting peatlands and putting in place the appropriate measures.

However, to a large extent, land managers are already protecting peatlands for their biodiversity value under agri-environment schemes and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Around 230,000 hectares of peatlands are currently managed under agri-environment agreements in England.

Cattle: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on progress towards a cattle vaccine for *(a)* foot and mouth disease, *(b)* blue tongue and (c) bovine TB. [157365]

Jonathan Shaw: A large number of foot and mouth vaccines for a range of different strains are already held in the UK vaccine bank at the Merial production facility in Pirbright This is the only facility licensed to produce foot and mouth disease vaccines in the UK. As soon as we identified the precise strain of the circulating virus we ordered 300,000 doses to be made ready for use. This vaccine is licensed for use in cattle and other species and the production was cleared by the Health and Safety Executive and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

However, DEFRA has decided not to vaccinate at this time as the epidemiological evidence concludes that the risk of the infection spreading out of Surrey is very low. Therefore, the slaughter of animals on infected premises and dangerous contacts remains the most effective way of eradicating the disease.

There is currently no suitable vaccine for the bluetongue serotype 8 available; as this serotype only emerged in Europe last year. However, we are aware of several companies who are developing such a vaccine for use in cattle and sheep and we are in urgent discussions with them to do what we can to encourage this work. We are also developing a plan with the industry as to how a vaccination campaign would work once a vaccine becomes available, is licensed, safe and effective for use; we hope this will be next year.

While progress is being made on the development of a TB vaccine for cattle, vaccination as a practical TB control measure is still some way off. DEFRA-funded research has successfully identified lead candidate vaccines and we are now starting to look at delivery protocols. Research is also continuing on tests to differentiate infected from vaccinated animals (DIVA tests). It is important to note that development of a successful TB vaccine cannot be guaranteed, and that if a vaccine can be developed it will only form one part of a balanced package of measures to control the disease.

Departments: Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Ministry of Defence Ministers or officials on restrictions on civilian leisure activities on Ministry of Defence land as a result of foot and mouth disease. [157071]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is in regular contact with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and, during the recent foot and mouth outbreaks, we have had a range of discussions. During the initial outbreaks, DEFRA was in daily contact with the MoD to clarify public access arrangements and countryside activities in high risk areas.

During the initial outbreaks in August, at the request of DEFRA, officials from Defence Estates, the relevant MoD organisation, assisted Surrey county council in closing MoD public land within the protection zone.

In line with DEFRA guidelines, MoD has not imposed any public access or leisure restrictions on their land in low risk areas during the recent outbreaks.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157002]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 15 October 2007, *Official Report* column 823W.

Domestic Wastes: Microprocessors

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has produced or commissioned on the use of radio frequency identification chips in rubbish bins. [158220]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2097W.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of public satisfaction with local authority waste collection services in areas with *(a)* alternate weekly collections and *(b)* weekly collections. [155700]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not carry out its own monitoring of satisfaction with waste services. It is the responsibility of local authorities to do this at. At present, they are required under the local government performance framework to carry out a survey every three years as part of the best value performance indicators. Further information about these indicators is available from the local government performance website at:

www.bvpi.gov.uk

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on the size of wheelie bins for household rubbish collection; [158096]

(2) what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on the sizes of wheelie bins for household rubbish collection. [158113]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has not given any guidance on this issue.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) issued guidance on alternate weekly collection ("Alternate Weekly Collections: Guidance for Local Authorities") which has a short section on the size of wheelie bins. WRAP has issued no other guidance on this issue.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 156-7W on domestic wastes: waste disposal, to my hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), what estimate has been made of the proportion of household rubbish collected for recycling that is not recycled in local authorities which do not have material recycling facilities. [158138]

Joan Ruddock: No specific assessment has been made by my Department on the proportion of household rubbish collected for recycling not recycled in local authorities which do not have material recycling facilities.

The challenging recycling and composting targets set for all local authorities in England mean that it is in the authority's interest to recycle or compost as much of the viable material collected. Local authorities without local facilities may either use facilities in other areas, or send recyclables for reprocessing outside the UK.

When reporting data to WasteDataFlow, local authorities should specify the amount of waste collected for recycling that is subsequently rejected at the point of collection, at a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), or at the gate of the reprocessor. The data reported to WasteDataFlow are used by the Environment Agency and DEFRA to monitor the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research, advice or guidance the consultancy Eunomia has produced at public expense on levying charges on households for providing containers which will hold domestic rubbish. [158247]

Joan Ruddock: Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd. have conducted research for DEFRA through the project "Modelling the Impact of Household Charging for Waste in England". This report contains a literature review and modelling work, which includes sack-based schemes and bin volume schemes. Both of these involve charging households for containers which will hold domestic rubbish.

They have not provided any policy advice or guidance.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice or guidance *(a)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme and *(b)* his Department has provided to councils on levying charges on households for providing containers which will hold domestic rubbish. [158248]

Joan Ruddock: No advice or guidance have been provided by the Waste and Resources Action Programme or DEFRA on these issues.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether, under his Department's proposals to allow local authorities to charge for the collection of household waste, waste collection authorities will remain under an obligation to collect rubbish from households which did not pay the charges. [158403]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA is considering responses to a recent consultation on the issue of whether local authorities should be given a new legal power to introduce non income-raising ('revenue neutral') incentive schemes for minimising waste. This would be a power not a duty, and the aim of any such scheme would be to incentivise behavioural change. This would not be a charging scheme for the collection of waste, as any payments required would be aimed at influencing behaviour change and not on the cost of the collection service.

The duty of waste collection authorities, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, to collect household waste (subject to certain exemptions) would not be altered by the Department's proposals.

Floods: Insurance

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the insurance industry on the provision of *(a)* adequate flood defences by the Government and *(b)* insurance cover in areas vulnerable to flooding; and if he will make a statement. [159097]

Mr. Woolas: Ministerial colleagues, officials and I are in regular contact with the insurance industry and the Association of British Insurers. We are working together with the mutual aim of ensuring continued widespread availability of flood insurance cover through the Association's Statement of Principles. This sets out commitments by insurers on the availability of flood insurance, associated with commitments by the Government on effective management of flood risk.

Floods: Risk Assessment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Environment Agency's definition is of the probability of *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high flood risk in terms of the frequency in years at which an area is likely to flood. [158411]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency uses three categories for defining the probability of a flood. They are low, moderate and significant.

Low—the chance of flooding each year is 0.5 per cent. (1 in 200) or less.

Moderate—the chance of flooding in any year is 1.3 per cent. (1 in 75) or less but greater than 0.5 per cent. (1 in 200).

Significant—the chance of flooding in any year is greater than 1.3 per cent. (1 in 75).

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on food waste collection, including which types of food can and cannot be placed in food waste buckets. [158216]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) offers advice to local authorities on arrangements for food waste collection. This advice has been developed on the basis of published literature, a number of projects commissioned by WRAP and current local authority experience of providing food waste collection services. The general advice is that if local authorities are considering collecting food waste they should consider collecting it separately and on a weekly basis. Where food waste is collected separately, WRAP advises that local authorities provide appropriate containers to householders (typically a kitchen caddy and a rigid external container) to make the separation of food waste easier for residents and to encourage them to take part in the service.

The types of food waste suitable for collection will depend on the treatment facilities available to a local authority. All food waste collected separately must be treated at enclosed facilities (for example, in-vessel composting or anaerobic digestion plants) that meet the requirements of the Animal By-Products Regulations and are approved by the State Veterinary Service. Typically this will include cooked and uncooked food, dairy products, meat, fish and fruit/vegetables.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what time period elapsed between the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease and cessation of work on dangerous viruses at the Pirbright laboratories. [157521]

Jonathan Shaw: Foot and mouth disease was first confirmed on a premises in Surrey on 3 August. As soon as the circulating virus strain was identified as the same strain as the one held at the Pirbright site on 4 August, DEFRA and Merial agreed that, because of the large quantities involved, the use of live virus would be voluntarily suspended by Merial. The case for a similar suspension at the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) was also considered on 4 August and has been kept under active review since then. Drawing on advice from the Health and Safety Executive, some modification has been made to the agreed arrangements where IAH can work with live virus. However, our judgment to date has been that, because of the small volumes of live virus handled by IAH and the additional measures the Institute has put in place, complete suspension is not justified.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals have been culled *(a)* on infected premises, *(b)* on the basis of slaughter on suspicion and *(c)* as a result of dangerous contact following the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. [158644]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* A total of 2,160 animals have been compulsorily culled as a result of the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. A breakdown of the statistics is shown as follows:

Current premises status	*Number of premises*	*Number culled and disposed*[1]
Infected premises[2]	8	1,578
Dangerous contacts	7	195
Slaughter on suspicion[3]	2	387

Current premises status	Number of premises	Number culled and disposed[2]
Totals	17	2,160

[1] Figures as of 12 October 2007 and may be subject to change.
[2] Includes slaughter on suspicion and dangerous contact premises subsequently confirmed as infected premises.
[3] Excludes those cases which were subsequently confirmed as infected premises.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many infected premises livestock has been slaughtered in relation to the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease; and how many individual holdings make up the number of infected premises. [157931]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Livestock has been culled on eight infected premises during the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease. These eight infected premises comprised a total of 24 individual locations where susceptible livestock was culled.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which premises livestock was culled during the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease on the basis of *(a)* being on infected premises, *(b)* the policy of slaughter on suspicion, *(c)* dangerous contact and *(d)* being on contiguous premises. [157932]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* DEFRA policy is not to name individual affected premises. In addition to the eight infected premises there have been two premises on which animals were culled as part of the policy of slaughter on suspicion, and a further seven premises where animals were culled as dangerous contacts. There are no premises where animals have been culled solely on the basis that they were contiguous to an infected premises.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* infected premises, *(b)* slaughter on suspicion premises, *(c)* dangerous contacts and *(d)* contiguous premises were tested during the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease for signs of the disease; and how many in each category returned positive tests. [157933]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Animals have been tested at all premises where culling has taken place for disease control reasons. At least one animal tested positive for foot and mouth disease at all eight of the infected premises. No animals at the two remaining slaughter on suspicion and seven dangerous contact premises tested positive for foot and mouth disease.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Exports

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals have been slaughtered as a consequence of the ban on exports because of foot and mouth disease. [157700]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* DEFRA holds figures only for animals culled for disease control purposes. It is estimated that the number of animals (cattle, sheep and pigs) slaughtered for consumption in England during August and September this year is 14 per cent. below the same period in 2006 (equivalent to around 455,152 animals). This figure includes animals slaughtered in England but originating in Scotland and Wales.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Hunting

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reasons trail and drag hunting is prohibited in foot and mouth disease low risk areas; [157068]

(2) whether there are biosecurity hazards associated with trail and drag hunting; [157069]

(3) when he will allow trail and drag hunting on foot and mouth disease *(a)* low risk and *(b)* risk areas. [157070]

Jonathan Shaw: The current ban on trail and drag hunting across the whole of Great Britain is a legal requirement under the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) (England) Order 2006 and was also required by previous legislation dating back to 1983.

Epidemiological evidence from the current outbreak suggests that the disease could have been transmitted by fomites on vehicles or other bodies and could have been carried from areas containing infected animals to previously 'clean' areas.

The risk of horses, in particular, transporting the virus in this way is increased. This is because they are often kept on the same premises as susceptible animals, transported in vehicles used for moving susceptible animals, have contact with susceptible animals on neighbouring farms, or are handled by persons who also have contact with susceptible animals.

There are, therefore, tight controls on the types of activities such as trail and drag hunting involving horses.

Our many licensing priorities in both the FMD risk and low risk areas are constantly under review with consideration from the farming industry and experts. Any decision to allow trail and drag hunting under licence will be based on an assessment of the disease risk. We will continue to keep restrictions under review with the aim of lifting them as quickly as possible consistent with our overriding objective of eradicating FMD.

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review regulations that forbid trail and drag hunting and stalking in low risk foot and mouth areas such as Northumberland, Cumbria and Yorkshire. [157549]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The current ban on trail and drag hunting and stalking across the whole of Great Britain is a legal requirement under the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) (England) Order 2006 and was also required by previous legislation dating back to 1983.

Our licensing priorities are constantly under review with consideration from industry and experts. Any decision to allow trail and drag hunting will be based on assessment of the disease risk. We will continue to keep restrictions under constant review with the aim of lifting them as quickly as possible consistent with our overriding objective of eradicating FMD.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Public Inquiries

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to establish an independent public inquiry into its handling of the foot and mouth outbreaks of 2007. [157420]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Following the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in August and September 2007, the Prime Minister has asked Dr. Iain Anderson to look at the Government's response to the outbreak. Dr. Anderson chaired the previous independent inquiry into the 2001 outbreak. The terms of reference for the Foot and Mouth Review 2007 are:

To conduct a review of the Government's handling of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease during 2007, in order to:

i. Establish whether relevant points from the Lessons to be Learned Report on the 2001 outbreak were implemented;

ii. Establish whether new lessons might be drawn from the handling of the 2007 outbreak; and

iii. To make recommendations by the end of 2007 to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the future handling of foot and mouth disease outbreaks.

This is the most effective and efficient way to learn the lessons of this outbreak and respond accordingly. We have no plans to establish a public inquiry.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Scotland

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the National Farmers Union of Scotland on the outbreaks of (i) foot and mouth and (ii) blue tongue disease; [157150]

(2) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Ministers or officials of the Scottish Executive to discuss the outbreak of (i) foot and mouth and (ii) blue tongue disease; and if he will make a statement; [157151]

(3) what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have received from (i) Ministers and (ii) officials of the Scottish Executive on compensation available to farmers in Scotland following the outbreak of (A) foot and mouth and (B) blue tongue disease; and if he will make a statement; [157152]

(4) what representations he has received from the National Farmers Union of Scotland on compensation for losses suffered as a result of the foot and mouth outbreak. [157153]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* We are working closely with the Scottish Executive and others to co-ordinate our disease control response throughout the United Kingdom. DEFRA has had a range of discussions with the Scottish Executive throughout the current outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue, at both ministerial and official level. The National Farmers Union (NFU) of Scotland have participated in discussions with officials from DEFRA and the Scottish Executive. We have also received a range of representations from the Scottish Executive and the NFU on these issues, including compensation.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Sheep

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates he has made of the number of fat lambs which remain unsold due to foot and mouth restrictions. [157276]

Jonathan Shaw: It is estimated that the number of fat lambs slaughtered for consumption in England, during August and September this year, is 21 per cent. below the same period in 2006. This equates to around 370,000 animals and it includes lambs slaughtered in England but originating in Scotland and Wales.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure price support is provided for farmers affected by the foot and mouth outbreaks of 2007. [157419]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Under the Animal Health Act 1981, compensation is paid for animals that are compulsorily slaughtered to prevent the spread of disease. For foot and mouth disease (FMD), the Act requires that compensation is paid at the full market value before the animal became infected. This is determined by an approved valuer at the time of slaughter. Compensation is also paid for other items, such as farm equipment and feed, where these are seized because they are considered to be contaminated; this includes such things as milk. However, it is a long established principle that the Government do not meet the costs of consequential losses, which must be borne by the industry. Government seek to minimise the risk of market impacts, particularly by encouraging public understanding of the issues.

We are taking a risk-based and staged approach to easing movement restrictions when the evidence indicates that it is appropriate to do so. This is the best way to facilitate the return to normal working for the industry. We are working in partnership with the industry, but eradication of foot and mouth disease remains our priority.

There is a role for the Government in partially meeting the immediate need to encourage higher consumption at home and to provide an alternative market for products previously exported. On 8 October, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) announced a support package worth £12.5 million to stimulate the market and assist those livestock farmers worst affected by restrictions imposed as a result of FMD, *Official Report*, column 39. The package includes £8.5 million to provide

support for our hill farmers; £1 million to assist farmers in the FMD risk area with the cost of removing fallen stock; £2 million to promote the sales of red meat and pork domestically and in our export markets; and a donation of up to £1 million to the Arthur Rank Centre for disbursement to Farming Help charities.

Hares Preservation Act 1892

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there are plans to repeal the Hares Preservation Act 1892 in full or in part. [158628]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* DEFRA currently has no plans to repeal the Hares Preservation Act 1892 in full or in part.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what enforcement mechanisms exist to ensure that companies which fail to dispose properly of toxic waste are liable for damage caused as a result. [154589]

Joan Ruddock: The illegal disposal of waste is a criminal offence under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Individuals and companies can be liable for the offence which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both. When deciding on the severity of a sentence to impose on a company that has been found guilty of disposing of waste illegally, the court is able to take into consideration any damage caused as a result, including environmental damage.

In addition, sections 42 and 43 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 amended section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to give the courts new powers to:

(a) order an offender to pay the enforcing authority's investigation and enforcement costs, and any costs associated with the seizure of vehicles involved in the offence;

(b) require the offender to pay the Environment Agency, a local authority or the occupier or owner of land, any costs incurred in removing waste that has been illegally deposited. Clean-up costs can include removing the waste and/or taking other steps to reduce the consequences of the incident.

The Government are currently in the process of implementing the Environmental Liability Directive which is aimed at the prevention and remedying of environmental damage. This is based on the "polluter pays" principle.

Institute for Animal Health: Pirbright

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what bio-security measures are in force at the Institute for Animal Health Laboratory and the adjoining Merial Animal Health Laboratory at Pirbright to ensure that human and animal health is not affected by work being carried out there; and if he will make a statement. [158629]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* Stringent bio-security conditions have always applied to work carried out on the Pirbright site. Additional measures have now been implemented that go above and beyond those contained in the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Spratt reports. These measures are set out in the Government's response to those reports, which is available in the Libraries of the House and on the DEFRA website.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which officials in his Department have been responsible for the inspection and licensing of Pirbright laboratories in each year since 2002; and whether those officials remain in post. [157316]

Jonathan Shaw: Inspections were carried out for the Department by senior DEFRA veterinarians with specialist knowledge of laboratory containment, exotic animal diseases and the requirements for licensing laboratories under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998. Some of these officials have since left the Department, for reasons not connected with this work, while others remain in post.

Ivory

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what policy line he took at the 14th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on the sale of stockpiled ivory. [157775]

Joan Ruddock: The UK policy was, and is, that we only support the one-off sale of stockpiled ivory where the conditions originally agreed by CITES parties in 2002 have been met. At the meeting of the 55th CITES Standing Committee on 2 June 2007, immediately prior to the 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP14), it was agreed that the conditions had been met and the stockpile sale was permitted. The UK was satisfied that the conditions had been met and, therefore, supported this decision at the meeting, with the proviso that funding for the subsequent monitoring of the outcomes of the sale was secured.

At the subsequent CoP14 (3-15 June), agreement was reached by African range states that increased tonnages could be sold, including stockpiles from Zimbabwe. It was also agreed that there will be a nine year "resting" period on consideration of any further sales of ivory after the one-off sale takes place to allow the effects of the stockpile sale to be properly assessed. Some of the proceeds of the sale will be placed in an African Elephant Fund to support conservation measures across their range.

Leading up to the Conference, the UK (and EU) maintained an open position on this issue preferring the African elephant range states to debate the issue among themselves. The UK Government was pleased that agreement over such a contentious issue was finally reached and fully supported the outcome.

Land: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report

commissioned by his Department on the effect of best and most versatile land designation on planning decisions (LE0217). [158090]

Jonathan Shaw: I have arranged for a copy of this report to be placed in the Library.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of landfill tax which will be raised from waste arising from recent serious cases of flooding. [158251]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has not specifically assessed the increase in landfill tax receipts following recent serious cases of flooding.

However, we would expect only a relatively small increase in municipal waste arisings as a result of recent flooding, which would be within the normal range of variations in annual waste arisings. This should not have a long-term or significant impact on waste management costs.

Landfill: Methane

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements there are for *(a)* new and *(b)* existing landfill sites to collect methane emissions from the site and use them as an energy source. [158089]

Joan Ruddock: The EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) requires landfill gas to be collected from all new and existing landfill sites receiving biodegradable waste; landfill gas must be treated and used; and landfill gas which cannot be used to produce energy must be flared. The collection, treatment and use of landfill gas must be undertaken in a manner which minimises damage to or deterioration of the environment and risk to human health.

In this context, an existing landfill site is one which was operational on or after 16 July 2001.

Recycling: Business

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives his Department provides for local authorities to engage with local businesses to promote recycling. [157936]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The landfill tax escalator gives greater financial incentives to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. This was increased in the 2007 Budget so that the standard rate of tax will increase by £8 per year from 2008 until at least 2010-11. If private waste collectors that collect commercial waste fail to offer alternatives to landfill (such as recycling) they will find that the waste treatment services they offer will no longer be cost effective. This is an incentive for waste contractors to consider developing waste management partnerships with local authorities to provide services to local businesses.

In addition, the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme (BREW) has been developed to give money raised through the landfill tax back to business through funding resource efficiency and waste projects that will benefit business. The BREW Centre for Local Authorities was set up to help local authorities undertake a leadership role in supporting the business community to become more profitable through business resource efficiency and waste reduction.

Recycling: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what additional funding is being provided to local authorities to meet central Government recycling targets. [158115]

Joan Ruddock: The main sources of funding for local authorities' waste management services are revenue support grant (RSG) and national non-domestic rates (NNDR), distributed by central Government, and council tax. It is for local authorities to decide what proportion of this funding to invest in waste management services, including recycling. Other funding made available to authorities in England for waste management since 1997 is shown in the following table:

Funding provided

Scheme	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
						million
Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund	50	90	90	45	—	—
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	—	—	—	40	105	110
Grant to Relieve Spending Pressures on Waste	—	—	20	—	—	—
Household Incentives Pilot Scheme	—	—	—	5	—	—
Private Finance Initiative	70	100	125	130	255	280
Local Communications Fund (WRAP)	—	—	16.2	—	—	—
Behavioural Change Local Fund (WRAP)	—	—	—	—	13	

As part of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, the Government have also announced a further step change in Private Finance Initiative spending on waste, more than doubling from £280 million in 2007-08 to £700 million by 2010-11, totalling £2 billion over the three years of the next spending period.

Waste Management: Welsh Assembly Government

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the CBI's proposals for UK and Europe-wide standards on waste management. [157336]

Joan Ruddock: On 12 October 2006, the Government, in association with the devolved Administrations, published a consultation paper on the European Commission's proposal to revise the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). The Commission's proposal included a provision to enable the adoption by comitology of EU-wide minimum standards for waste management operations. A summary and analysis of the responses to this consultation is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) responded to DEFRA's consultation on the revision of the WFD. However, I am advised that DEFRA has no record of the CBI subsequently submitting proposals for UK and EU-wide standards on waste management. It follows that no discussions on such proposals have taken place with the Welsh Assembly Government.

Wood

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of methods to decontaminate surplus wood of toxic preservatives prior to being burned in commercial wood-burning furnaces or power plants. [157321]

Joan Ruddock: No specific assessment has been made by my Department of the effectiveness of methods to decontaminate surplus wood of toxic preservatives prior to being burned in commercial wood-burning furnaces or power plants.

However, DEFRA's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP) has investigated ways of diverting waste wood from landfill. This is in response to recommendation 4 of the Biomass Task Force Report to the Government, published in October 2005. DEFRA's general conclusion is that it is more cost effective to treat contaminated waste wood as a waste and to dispose of it in a Waste Incineration Directive (WID)-compliant facility than to attempt to decontaminate and burn it in commercial wood-burning furnaces or power plants as a non-waste. Such WID-compliant facilities can recover energy as electricity, or electricity and heat in the form of combined heat and power for industrial purposes.

Wood: Waste Disposal

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislative provisions apply to the safe disposal of timber treated with *(a)* copper chrome arsenate, *(b)* ammoniacal copper quaternary, *(c)* copper azole, *(d)* boron, *(e)* creosote and *(f)* pyrethroid and metal-based light organic solvent preservatives. [157976]

Joan Ruddock: All wastes must be recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes or methods which could harm the environment.

The Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) is implemented through the Waste Incineration (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002 No. 2980) and applies to the incineration of waste timber which has been treated with any of the substances mentioned.

The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) has been transposed via the Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 (as amended). One aspect of the Landfill Directive is that landfill sites have to be categorised into one of three types: hazardous, non-hazardous or inert. Hazardous and inert wastes for landfill have to meet the waste acceptance criteria destined for landfill. The criteria are limits of contaminants permitted in waste, together with testing standards and procedures that must be used. Hazardous wastes are also required to be pre-treated before landfill. From 30 October 2007, all non-hazardous and inert wastes going to landfill will also need to meet the pre-treatment requirement.

Where such waste timber, which is classed as hazardous waste under regulation 6 of the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No 894), is disposed of by means other than incineration or landfill in a facility with a capacity of more than 10 tonnes per day, the facility is subject to the integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) which is implemented through the Pollution Prevention and Control(England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000 No. 1973).

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Ministerial Responsibilities

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the reasons are for the time taken to produce the list of ministerial responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [158570]

Edward Miliband: The new "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" has been published today. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are also available in the Vote Office for hon. Members.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to appeal against the ruling of the High Court of August 2007 on impermissible donations to the UK Independence Party; and if he will make a statement. [158696]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that, on 7 August 2007, judgment was given on an application by the Commission to Westminster magistrates court under section 58 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 for forfeiture by the UK Independence Party of an amount equal to the value of certain donations the Party had accepted. The court found all of the donations in question to be from impermissible donors, but ordered the forfeiture of an amount equal in value to only some of those donations. On 21 August, the Electoral Commission commenced

appeal proceedings. The appeal is for a judicial review by the High Court of the magistrates court's decision not to order forfeiture of an amount equal in value to the remainder of the donations that were the subject of the original application. A date for the hearing has not yet been set.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were screened for breast cancer per head of the population in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [157516]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following table for 2005-06, the latest year for which figures are available. The figures are broken down by primary care trust (PCT) in Hertfordshire, along with figures for England. As the figures are for 2005-06, they are based on the previous PCT boundaries.

Primary care trust	*Eligible population*[1]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage*[2] *(Percentage)*
Dacorum	10,220	8,104	79.3
Hertsmere	6,342	4,697	74.1
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage	12,671	9,932	78.4
Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford	5,745	3,494	60.8
South East Hertfordshire	13,212	10,040	76
St. Albans and Harpenden	9,228	6,927	75.1
Watford and Three Rivers	11,488	6,910	60.2
England	3,633,181	2,756,716	75.9

[1] Although the breast screening programme now invites women aged 50 to 70, these figures cover women aged 53 to 64 as coverage of the programme is best assessed using this age range group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthday depending on the logistics of the local programme. In addition, not all programmes had extended invitations to women aged 70 for the whole of 2005-06, although all had by the end of 2005-06. Eligible population is the number of women in the resident population less those recorded as ineligible.
[2] Less then three years since last test.
Source:
Breast Screening Programme England 2005-06 (National Statistics and the Information Centre).

Contraceptives

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS per patient of *(a)* long-acting reversible contraceptives and *(b)* other forms of contraception in the next five years. [157307]

Dawn Primarolo: In October 2005 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued clinical guidance on long-acting reversible contraception (LARC). It shows that all LARC methods are more cost effective than the combined oral contraceptive pill even at one year of use. The following table shows estimated method costs (per 1,000 women) after five years of use. Cost per patient is not estimated centrally.

Method and healthcare service costs

Method	*Five year cost*
Intrauterine device	534,555
Intrauterine system	603,534
Injectable	760,600
Implant	667,275
Male condom	993,769
Combined pill	899,697

Source:
Long-acting reversible contraception, clinical guidelines, NICE, 2005

Cosmetics: Health Hazards

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the possible effects of skin-lightening products on health; and if he will make a statement; [157826]

(2) what assessment he has made of the compliance with UK regulatory and licensing requirements of skin-lightening products; and if he will make a statement. [158449]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

No such assessments have been made.

Dental Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 803W, if his Department will now collect information on dentist practices which have closed their lists to NHS patients since the inception of the new NHS dentist contract. [159034]

Ann Keen: Information on dental practices which have ceased to provide national health service services since the launch of the reforms in April 2006 is not held centrally and there are no plans to make this an additional new central return.

Information is available on the number of dental contracts offered at the start of the new system in April 2006 and the number of those contracts signed and rejected. 8,377 out of 9,428 contracts offered were signed. 2,884 of these were initially signed in dispute. By 30 June 2007, the latest date for which information is available just 223 remained in dispute. Of the disputes resolved over 99 per cent. ended in the contractor staying with the NHS. This information is held by dental contract not by dentist. A contract may cover one dentist or a whole practice.

Dental Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what spare capacity, expressed in patient numbers, is available for *(a)* under 18, *(b)* over 18 fee-paying and *(c)* over 18 charge-exempt people to register with each NHS dental practice in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [158647]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Departments: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the contracts his Department signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in 2006. [159319]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157892]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 1 September 2007, there were 61 people (57.7 full-time equivalent) seconded into the Department. The Department's main human resources information system does not show where a person has been seconded from, or the length of their secondment.

Work carried out to answer a previous Freedom of Information request suggested that virtually all secondees into the Department are from public sector organisations and anecdotally most of these are from national health service trusts or other health-related organisations. Secondments are normally for a period of up to two years.

Health Hazards: Mobile Phones

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what official response the Government *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make to the report of the findings of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme; [157200]

(2) what health advice he plans to provide to the public following the findings of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme; [157201]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Health Protection Agency on the findings of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme; whether the Health Protection Agency will be updating its advice to the public in the light of the report from the programme; and if he will make a statement; [157202]

(4) what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of current health advice on the use of mobile telephones in the light of the findings of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme; and if he will make a statement; [157203]

(5) what recent discussions his Department has had with the devolved Administrations on raising awareness of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme report and its findings. [157204]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is grateful to the Management Committee of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme for producing the "Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme Report 2007—MTHR Programme Management Committee" published on 12 September. The report is available in the Library and at www.mthr.org.uk.

We shall also send a copy to hon. Members, as we believe it will be helpful when responding to enquiries from constituents about mobile phone technology and health.

The Health Protection Agency's (HPA) Radiation Protection Division has the responsibility of advising on radiation risk and health protection matters. In undertaking this role the HPA monitors progress in radiation and electromagnetic field health research, that is undertaken throughout the world, in order to inform its advice. The MTHR results will add to the information available to the HPA in support of that advice.

The Department's advice that is currently available in the form of leaflets and web based information will be updated in the course of the next few months in co-operation with the HPA and Health Department officials in the devolved Administrations.

Kidney Patients: Counselling

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many renal counsellors are employed in England; at which kidney units they are located and what services they provide; whether their services are provided by the NHS; how many and what proportion of kidney patients saw a counsellor in the last 12 months; what the average number of sessions with a counsellor for each patient was in that period; by what means kidney patients may access counsellors and how they are informed of their ability to do so; and whether counsellors are employed solely to aid kidney patients. [158396]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mentally Ill

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the implications of stigma surrounding mental health in England; and if he will make a statement. [157605]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department recognises that the stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental illness is a major social problem. People with mental health problems are one of the most excluded social groups in society, with fewer than a quarter in employment. They can find themselves excluded from education, health care and community participation. People with mental illness who disclose their condition can find themselves shunned by neighbours and colleagues while some do not disclose their illness to family and friends. For many people with mental illness, a diagnosis of mental illness can have a worse impact upon their lives than their symptoms.

The Department is funding a five-year programme, Shift, through the Care Services Improvement Programme to tackle the stigma and discrimination which surrounds

mental illness. Shift is working with various bodies, and its focus this year is on the media and employers. On World Mental Health day on 10 October, Shift launched guidance for employers on improving their recruitment and retention processes for people with mental health problems.

The Department and Shift are working with the mental health charity sector consortium, Moving People, which has recently won £18 million from the Big Lottery and Comic Relief to run a four-year anti-stigma and mental health promotion campaign. The details of how the Government will support this initiative, which involves Mind, Rethink, Mental Health Media and the Institute of Psychiatry, are being formulated.

Midwives: NHS Stockport Primary Care Trust

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were in training in Stockport Primary Care Trust hospitals in each year since 1997. [158000]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Myasthenia Gravis

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of services provided by the NHS for people with myasthenia gravis; and if he will make a statement. [157382]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the services provided by the national health service for people with myasthenia gravis.

Out of Area Treatment

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions he plans to make for cross-border user representation within local involvement networks to reflect situations where residents from one local authority area routinely use services within another. [159095]

Ann Keen: We recognise the need for local involvement networks (LINks) arrangements to reflect the fact that some people do use health and social care services outside the local authority area where they reside. That is why we have ensured there is appropriate provision within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, currently before Parliament, to enable LINks activities not only to relate to health and social care services provided within their local authority area, but also health and social care services provided, in any place, for people from the area. We have also included provisions which will enable LINks to work together, regionally and/or nationally, as a means of undertaking their activities.

We intend to published guidance for LINks in the spring and as part of this guidance we will explore in detail how LINks might work together to ensure cross-border representation for patients.

Palliative Care

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines there are for provision of palliative care for patients who wish to die at home; and if he will make a statement. [157995]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Three key tools—the Gold Standards Framework, the Liverpool Care Pathway and the Preferred Priorities for Care—are used as a basis for providing training for generalist staff in the principles of palliative care so that all patients at the end of life have access to high quality care.

Over the last three years we have invested £12 million in an end of life care programme to promote roll-out of these tried and tested tools, and thus promote greater choice for patients about where they are able to be cared for and die.

Latest figures show that one or more of these tools is being used in 69 per cent. of general practitioners practices, 81 per cent. of hospitals, 41 per cent. of community hospitals, 69 per cent. of hospices and 6.4 per cent. of care homes. The Department is currently developing the first ever end of life care strategy for adults, which will deliver increased choice to all adult patients regardless of their condition about where they live and die, and provide them with support to make this possible.

We have deferred publication of the strategy to allow us to take account of the important work being undertaken on end of life care at strategic health authority (SHA) level for the next stage review which will be completed in the new year. We have provided SHAs with information that we hope they will find useful and it is important that we now take account of their work to ensure that the national strategy encompasses local innovation.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what amount of funding was allocated in each primary care trust area to palliative care for patients who wish to die at home in each year since 1997. [157996]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning and funding services to meet the needs of their resident population including those for end of life care.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licences to sell alcohol were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* revoked in (i) London and (ii) England in each year since 1997 on grounds of the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years. [158807]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally.

Past and future statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not give reasons. Licences may be revoked for a number of reasons or a variety of factors, including sales to children. Prior to 24 November 2005, statistical returns did not differentiate between alcohol licences not renewed and licences revoked.

Big Lottery Fund

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 693W, on the Big Lottery Fund, whether interest is earned on this sum. [159357]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The overall balance held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) on behalf of the 13 non-Olympic distributing bodies is invested by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND).

The interest earned on this investment is shared between the 13 distributors in the same fixed percentages as income generated by the national lottery operator, Camelot, and becomes available for distribution to the good causes they support. The Big Lottery Fund receives 50 per cent. of the interest earned on the overall NLDF balance. Its share is not directly related to the size of its individual NLDF balance.

Bookmakers: Licensing

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue was collected from fees for bookmakers' premises licences in the UK in 2006-07; and what percentage of this came from independent bookmakers. [159031]

James Purnell: For 2006-07, and until 1 September 2007 when the Gambling Act 2005 was implemented, bookmakers required both a bookmaker's permit and a betting office licence. These were issued and charged for by local magistrates, under the Gaming Act 1968. Since 1 September local licensing authorities have issued premises licences. Information on revenue from this source raised by local licensing authorities, and previously by magistrates, is not held centrally. Data could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many independent bookmakers there are in the UK; and what the cost to them of *(a)* licence fees charged, *(b)* the operating licence charged and *(c)* the premises licence charged was in 2006-07. [159032]

James Purnell: Bookmakers have been able to apply to the Gambling Commission for operating licences under the Gambling Act 2005 from 1 January 2007. There is no defined category of "independent bookmaker". Total numbers of off-course bookmakers to which the Commission has issued operating licences to date are:

Category	*Operators*
A—four or fewer premises	605
B—five to 15 premises	52
C—16 to 50 premises	17
D—51 to 199 premises	4
E—200 or more premises	5

Both application fees and annual fees are charged by the Commission, in accordance with the table. In the period to 31 March 2007 it collected £56,318 in application fees from off-course bookmakers. Premises licence fees are a matter for local licensing authorities, and data are not collected centrally.

Application fees

£

	Category							
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Non-remote licences								
General betting (limited)	180	360	990	—	—	—	—	—
General betting (standard)	988	988	3,459	17,295	40,518	—	—	—
Remote licences								
General betting (standard)	—	—	—	—	—	988	3,294	16,471

Annual fees

£

	Category							
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Non-remote licences								
General betting (limited)	200	467	1,267	—	—	—	—	—
General betting (standard)	1,769	7,077	16,860	36,862	212,372	—	—	—
Remote licences								
General betting (standard)	—	—	—	—	—	12,733	54,176	66,341

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to review the system of betting licences, operating licences and premise licences issued to British bookmakers. [159033]

James Purnell: The Gambling Act 2005, which came fully into effect on 1 September 2007, places the protection of children and vulnerable people at the heart of the gambling licensing system for the first time. We have no plans to review this new framework.

British Bob Skeleton Association: Legal Costs

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of the cost of the British Bob Skeleton Association's legal action against the British Bobsleigh Association was met from the public purse or National Lottery funds via UK Sport. [158847]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport is not aware of any legal action by the British Bob Skeleton Association (BBSKA) against the British Bobsleigh Association.

UK Sport is aware of legal action taken earlier this year by the BBSKA against the Federation Internationale de Bobsleigh et de Tobogganing (FIBT). This was in the form of an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the FIBT's decision to change the rules over race licensing arrangements for skeleton athletes, without prior consultation. BBSKA used £17,000 of funding received from UK Sport to meet the costs of this successful action.

UK Sport agreed to meet this proportion of the costs because of the direct impact the decision was having on the athletes' ability to train and compete, and therefore the BBSKA's ability to deliver its performance programme. UK Sport did, however, make clear to the BBSKA that further costs associated with this legal action would need to be met from other sources of income. UK Sport is not aware of the total cost to the BBSKA of undertaking this legal action.

Casinos

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the written statement of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 2WS, on casinos, what the Government's policy is on the establishment of a supercasino in the UK. [159171]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prime Minister has asked the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to consider, with other Departments, including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, whether deprived areas can be equally well served by other forms of regeneration than a regional casino.

That work is now well under way, and the Prime Minister has asked the Secretary of State to report to him later in the autumn.

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to review the rollout of premises licences issued by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [159099]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We see no necessity to review the way in which premises licences have been introduced under the Gambling Act 2005. Applications by existing businesses could be made from 21 May 2007 and any businesses whose applications had not been determined by 1 September 2007, when the Act came into force are being permitted to operate until their applications are determined. The Department issued guidance to both the industry and licensing authorities for the transitional period. The Gambling Commission have published guidance to licensing authorities on the premises licence regime as a whole.

Gambling: EU Legislation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he last met his French, Spanish and German counterparts to discuss EU gambling legislation. [159105]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS Ministers have not had any meetings with their French, Spanish and German counterparts specifically to discuss EU gambling legislation over the past year. I am scheduled to meet with them at the next EU Sports Ministers meeting on 25 October.

However, officials from my Department keep in close contact with officials in the European Commission on developments affecting gambling.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to review the number of category B1 machines permitted in adult amusement centres. [159098]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Adult gaming centres are permitted a maximum of four category B3 machines, which have a maximum stake of one and a maximum prize of £500. There are no plans to review the number of category B3 machines that adult gaming centres can make available.

Category B1 machines have a maximum stake of two and a maximum prize of £4,000 and can only be made available in casinos.

National Lottery

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on national lottery ticket sales in *(a)* Wirral South, *(b)* Wirral, *(c)* Merseyside, *(d)* the North West and *(e)* England in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was distributed to good causes in those areas in the same period. [158016]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The national lottery operator, Camelot, does not collect ticket sales information on a constituency, district, county or regional basis, nor do they routinely collect ticket sales data based on postcodes. The most up-to-date sales data by postcode area is available in the Libraries of both Houses and provides information up to 2004.

QUEST

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Quality, Efficiency and Standards Team is still in operation in his Department. [158844]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Quality, Efficiency and Standards Team in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport was disbanded in 2002.

Rugby

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who regularly take part in rugby union games and training, including tag and touch rugby; and if he will make a statement. [159035]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the 2005-06 Sport England 'Active People' survey showed that 267,817 adults (16 years and over) regularly participated in rugby union games and training. 'Active People' regards participating at least once in the last four weeks as regular participation.

Rugby League

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to attend any of the rugby league test matches between Great Britain and New Zealand in an official capacity. [158665]

James Purnell: I will be attending the rugby league test match between Great Britain and New Zealand on 27 October in Huddersfield. I am looking forward to this unique test series which will celebrate the centenary of international rugby league competition.

Sports: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress in tackling the inequality of sports funding between men and women; what plans he has to reduce such inequality; and if he will make a statement. [158426]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures from the Taking Part survey show that on average women have lower rates of participation in sport than men. We therefore have a public service agreement to increase participation in sport by 3 per cent. by 2008, with a specific focus on priority groups with lower than average rates of participation—one of which is women.

As part of this focus to increase participation in sport by women, since 2006 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport through Sport England has funded 770 projects where women are one of the target beneficiaries. Sport England also grant aids the Women's Sport Foundation and in 2007-08 it is providing £326,148. The Sport England application process is open to all and does not discriminate by gender or any other group.

UK Sport

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many overseas conferences and events UK Sport has been involved with since 2005; how many it is due to be involved with in the future; and what the cost of such involvement was in 2006-07. [158845]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport has financially supported or helped organise six international conferences between 2005 and 2007. In addition, individual UK Sport employees have attended various overseas conferences and events as delegates or speakers since 2005.

It currently has plans to support two future events in partnership with the British Council: a PE and School Sport seminar in Brazil in February 2008 and a Dreams and Teams Young Leaders event in India in 2010 to coincide with the Commonwealth games in New Delhi.

The cost of UK Sport's involvement in 2006-07 was approximately £35,500.

UK Sport: Grants

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account UK Sport takes of recognition of national governing bodies of sports by international federations in deciding whether to fund them; and if he will make a statement. [158846]

Mr. Sutcliffe: One of the criteria for recognition of a governing body used by all the sports councils, including UK Sport, is that it is affiliated or is in the process of affiliating to the international governing body for the sport (as appropriate to the sport).

The recognition of a governing body does not necessarily make it eligible or entitled to consideration for funding. The decision on which body to fund is based on various separate considerations, of which recognition is one.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Sudan

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will cease returning Darfuri asylum seekers pending *(a)* review of the safety of such asylum seekers who have already been returned to Sudan and *(b)* a ceasefire peace agreement and secure environment being in place in that country. [158803]

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* safety of Darfuri asylum seekers who have been returned to Khartoum from the UK since 2003 and *(b)* likely safety of Darfuri asylum seekers who are due to be returned to Khartoum from the UK. [158819]

Mr. Byrne: We take the recent allegations made by the Aegis Trust regarding the treatment of failed asylum seekers who have returned to Sudan very seriously and we are investigating them very thoroughly.

On 4 October, the House of Lords heard an appeal brought by the Home Office on whether it is reasonable to return failed asylum seekers to Khartoum where the Court of Appeal have found no risk of persecution.

There are no enforced returns of failed asylum seekers currently planned before the House of Lords judgment is expected.

Border and Immigration Agency: Correspondence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was between the receipt of a letter by the Border and Immigration Agency and its predecessor from a hon. Member and the sending of a substantive reply in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [158979]

Mr. Byrne: Figures on the length of time taken to reply to hon. Members' correspondence to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate received before August 2004 are not available.

The figures by year are:

August-December 2004—37.83 working days

January-December 2005—32.80 working days

January-December 2006—23.56 working days

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of letters sent by hon. Members to the Border and Immigration Agency in 2006 received a substantive reply within *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* six, *(d)* eight, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* more than 10 weeks; and if she will make a statement. [158984]

Mr. Byrne: In the period 1 January to 31 December 2006 the Border and Immigration Agency received 41,513 letters from hon. Members.

Of these:

(a) 22,837 (55.0 per cent.) were answered in three weeks or less

(b) 32,436 (78.1 per cent.) were answered in four weeks or less

(c) 34,802 (83.8 per cent.) were answered in six weeks or less

(d) 35,575 (85.7 per cent.) were answered in eight weeks or less

(e) 36,121 (87.0 per cent.) were answered in 10 weeks or less

(f) 5,393 (13.0 per cent.) took more than 10 weeks to answer.

Courts: Administrative Delays

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average length of time taken to bring suspects before a court in cases of *(a)* assault and *(b)* other crimes; what steps she is taking to reduce these times; and if she will make a statement. [156214]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The table sets out the average time taken between the recorded date on which a defendant commits an offence to the date on which the defendant's case is first considered by a magistrates court, for the last six years. Figures have also been provided for the average time taken between:

(a) the first listing of a case to completion of that case in the magistrates court

(b) the overall period from offence to completion of a criminal case in the magistrates court.

The figures are from the Time Intervals Survey (TIS) and are based on defendants (adults and youths) in all criminal cases that were proceeded against in the magistrates courts.

The Government established the Criminal Justice Simple Speedy Summary Justice (CJSSS) programme to improve the speed and effectiveness with which cases proceed through the criminal courts. A key part of this programme aims to improve the way cases proceed in the magistrates courts. Following successful tests (with evidence of more offenders pleading guilty at an early stage, fewer hearings and the majority of trials for contested cases being set within 6-10 weeks), national implementation is firmly under way throughout England and Wales. CJSSS is now running in at least one site in each of the 36 local criminal justice areas and fully implemented in all magistrates courts in 11 of those areas. Implementation is expected to be completed in all but a handful of magistrates courts by December 2007. Once fully implemented these changes should deliver a step change in the public's experience of the justice system, improving the speed and effectiveness of magistrates courts.

Average time taken between date of offence to first listing and first listing to completion for all defendants (adult and youth) in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts—England and Wales, 2001 to 2006

	Average number of days from offence to first listing	*Margin of error (+/- days)*	*Average number of days from first listing to completion in magistrates court*	*Margin of error (+/- days)*	*Average number of days from offence to completion in magistrates court*	*Margin of error (+/- days)*	*Sample size (number of defendants)*
(a) All criminal offences							
2001	104	1	33	1	138	1	58,653
2002	109	1	33	1	142	1	63,008
2003	112	1	32	1	144	1	66,835
2004	114	1	33	1	147	1	65,578
2005	118	1	31	1	149	1	63,153
2006	117	1	31	1	148	1	60,200

Average time taken between date of offence to first listing and first listing to completion for all defendants (adult and youth) in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts—England and Wales, 2001 to 2006

	Average number of days from offence to first listing	Margin of error (+/- days)	Average number of days from first listing to completion in magistrates court	Margin of error (+/- days)	Average number of days from offence to completion in magistrates court	Margin of error (+/- days)	Sample size (number of defendants)
(b) Summary non motoring offences[1]							
2001	111	1	21	1	132	2	16,131
2002	122	2	20	1	142	2	18,483
2003	121	1	21	1	142	2	18,524
2004	114	1	26	1	140	2	17,473
2005	123	2	24	1	148	2	18,825
2006	122	2	24	1	146	2	18,976

[1] Includes common assault, assault on a constable, offences against Public Order and Education Act offences.

Notes:

1. Results are based on proceedings in one sample week in March and September. The Time Intervals Survey (TIS) is a sample survey that produces estimates of the average time taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts. More information on TIS is available on the Ministry of Justice website.
2. The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Timeliness in magistrates courts is measured using data from a sample of the total number of defendants. The sample provides one estimate of the average time taken and different samples would produce different average times. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error.
3. "First listing" refers to the first listed hearing of the case in the magistrates court.
4. It is not totally clear which "assault" cases are being referred to in the question. Information on broad offence group is collected in TIS although not at a level that would make it possible to provide estimates for defendants proceeded against for assault crimes separately. The offence classifications are as follows: burglary, criminal damage, drunken driving, drug offences, driving without due care, fraud and forgery, failing to stop, indictable motoring offences, other summary motoring offences, robbery, sexual offences, summary non-motoring offences, theft and handling stolen goods, violence against the person, other indictable offences (excluding motoring offences). Information is not available in TIS at individual offence level. Assault offences are classified in several different offence groups. In addition to timeliness of all criminal cases, timeliness figures have been provided for one of the offence groups ('summary non-motoring offences') as it was thought this might be helpful. The 'summary non-motoring offences' group includes the offences common assault, and assault on a constable, which were thought to be the most relevant offences to answer this question. Please note that in addition to the assault offences, the summary non-motoring offence group also includes a wide variety of other offences such as offences against Public Order and Education Act offences. In addition, certain other forms of assault (e.g. sexual assaults and assault with intent to rob) are counted in other offence groups and will not be included in the table.
5. Results have been provided for all years since 2001. It is not possible to provide consistent data for earlier years owing to methodological changes.

Source:

Time Intervals Survey, Ministry of Justice

Crime: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent change there has been in the level of recorded crimes in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire, broken down by type of crime. [158768]

Mr. McNulty: The most recent information for Chorley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Lancashire police force area is given in following the table.

Recorded crime by offence group and percentage change, 2005-06 to 2006-07

	Chorley CDRP			Lancashire police force area		
Offence group	*Offences recorded 2005-06*	*Offences recorded 2006-07*	*Percentage change 2005-06 to 2006-07*	*Offences recorded 2005-06*	*Offences recorded 2006-07*	*Percentage change 2005-06 to 2006-07*
Total crime	7,269	7,147	-2	142,229	135,837	-4
Violence against the person	1,489	1,460	-2	28,841	26,791	-7
Sexual offences	65	86	32	1,505	1,461	-3
Robbery	22	29	32	1,021	1,014	-1
Burglary	767	796	4	14,629	14,531	-1
Offences against vehicles	971	796	-18	16,263	16,552	2
Other theft offences	1,400	1,545	10	29,354	28,584	-3
Fraud and forgery	302	242	-20	5,524	3,976	-28
Criminal damage	1,938	1,752	-10	40,110	37,804	-6
Drug offences	230	338	47	3,245	3,301	2
Other offences	85	103	21	1,737	1,823	5

Crimes Against Property: Business

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it a requirement that crime against business is recorded as a separate category in official statistics; and if she will make a statement. [157784]

Mr. McNulty: The current recorded crime offence classification series does differentiate between robbery of personal property and robbery of business property, and also between domestic burglary and that of burglary in a building other than a dwelling. However, these categories will only represent some of the crimes against business which are recorded by the police. Offences of theft by an employee and fraud by company director are also included within the series.

The feasibility of police forces flagging commercial burglary offences is being examined as part of the regular annual data requirement review process by the Home Office and ACPO. These data are to be provided under a pilot scheme using a new crime recording

system which is currently being developed in the Home Office. It will enable a richer range of data to be collected from police forces. The feasibility of measuring crime against business will be examined during 2008-09.

Departments: Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list her Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations in each financial year since 2005-06. [156632]

Mr. Byrne: The 2005-06 list of *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-department public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations can be found in the publication Public Bodies 2006 at:

wwww.civilservice.gov.uk.

The 2006-07 list of *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-department public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporation will be published shortly on the Home Office website.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contingency preparations her Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs of those preparations were. [156999]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 16 October 2007, *Official, Report,* column 823W.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* the least popular website run by her Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157898]

Mr. Byrne: Of all of the Home Office websites managed by the core Home Office web team, the main Home Office site (www.homeoffice.gov.uk) is the most popular, with 5,025,514 visits since January 2007 and 3,380,390 unique visitors (as at September 2007). The least popular site (by means of visitor numbers) is the website of the Technical Advisory Board (www.technicaladvisory board.org.uk), one of the Home Office advisory bodies. At September 2007, it had received 324 visits and 265 unique visitors since January 2007. This website is currently being migrated into the Home Office corporate website as part of our Transformational Government work.

Fibre Optics: Mitcheldean

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what purpose her Department requires fibre optic cables to be laid in Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement. [158036]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* On the basis of the information provided, it has not been possible to ascertain whether the works identified by the hon. Gentleman are connected to the Home Office. If the hon. Gentleman could provide any further information that might be at his disposal, I would be more than willing to review the matter again.

Hampshire Constabulary: Firearms

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times police have been issued firearms in Hampshire in each of the last five years. [158752]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 718W.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate: Correspondence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of letters sent by hon. Members to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in 2003 received a substantive reply within *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* six, *(d)* eight, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* more than 10 weeks; and if she will make a statement. [158973]

Mr. Byrne: Figures on the length of time taken to reply to hon. Members' correspondence to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate received in 2003 are not available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of letters sent by hon. Members to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in 2001 received a substantive reply within *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* six, *(d)* eight, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* more than 10 weeks; and if she will make a statement. [158983]

Mr. Byrne: Figures on the length of time taken to reply to hon. Members' correspondence to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate received in 2001 are not available.

Immigration: Detainees

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of stay of detainees within the immigration detention estate was in each of the last five years. [158699]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on persons recorded as leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers during 2005 and between January to September 2006 broken down by length of detention have been published in the "Asylum Statistics: United Kingdom 2005" and "Asylum Statistics: United Kingdom 2006" bulletins respectively. This information was first available for 2005 and is the latest period for which information is currently available.

Snapshot details of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers for each of the last five years are also published in this series of bulletins. Immigration Research and Statistics plans to start

publishing statistics on all persons recorded as leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers again (and full details on length of detention) as soon as the data quality problems associated with the new administrative system have been resolved.

We do not publish an average length of stay in detention since this would be potentially misleading and could easily be skewed by a small number of cases in the upper range.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Lancashire Constabulary: Community Support Officers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers are deployed in Lancashire. [158767]

Mr. McNulty: At 31 March 2007, Lancashire Constabulary had 374 PCSOs in post.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 30 August from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West in relation to his constituent Mr. Nader El-Reah Almutbage. [158770]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 September 2007]:* A reply was despatched on 27 September 2007.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Immigration and Nationality Department will reply to the letters of *(a)* 25 June, *(b)* 31 July and *(c)* 11 September from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West on his constituent Mr. Abdul Rashid Abdullah. [158776]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency replied to the hon. Member on 15 October 2007.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 29 July from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West on his constituent Mr Denboba Natie. [158777]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 15 October 2007.

Metropolitan Police: Secondment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been seconded to the Metropolitan police for counter-terrorism duties from regional police forces; and what the cost has been *(a)* in total and *(b)* for each regional police force concerned. [157319]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics.

The number of officers seconded to individual police forces is collected centrally, but the home force, reason for secondment and associated costs are not.

Office of Surveillance Commissioners: Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Office of Surveillance Commissioners will amend its inspection priorities to undertake a first inspection of *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* the Valuation and Lands Agency. [158134]

Mr. McNulty: The Valuation Office Agency and the Valuation and Lands Agency do not carry out surveillance of individuals and do not operate covertly. Their officers always identify themselves when carrying out their duties.

Police Stations: CCTV

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of custody offices in police stations are equipped with fully functioning audio and visual CCTV in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales. [158711]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* This is an operational matter for chief constables.

Police: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account is taken in the manning formula for Bournemouth police of the number of visitors to Bournemouth every weekend. [157308]

Mr. McNulty: The deployment of police officers in Bournemouth at weekends is an operational matter for the chief constable of Dorset police.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of funding for additional policing during the Labour party conference in Bournemouth was provided by the Government. [157309]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office provides special grant to police authorities to pay for the additional costs incurred on policing the two main annual party conferences.

Dorset police submitted a bid of £4.5 million (revenue) plus £80,000 (capital) for the additional costs of policing the 2007 Labour party autumn conference, which was approved in full.

Police: Dogs

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dog handlers were employed by North Wales Police on *(a)* 31 December 2004, *(b)* 31 December 2005, *(c)* 31 December 2006 and *(d)* the most recent date for which figures are available. [156952]

Mr. McNulty: The information is shown in the following table.

Police officers in North Wales whose primary function[1] is dogs, as at 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2007 (FTE)[2]

	Number
31 March 2004	12
31 March 2005	15
31 March 2006	11
31 March 2007	12

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.
[2] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. This figure includes those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to address geographical disparities in police funding. [158720]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Police Service in England and Wales has benefited from a significant increase in resources over a sustained period.

Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that distributes resources on the basis of relative needs and resources. A damping mechanism is subsequently applied to protect all authorities against financial instability which ensures that all authorities receive an increase in grant at least equal to the "floor" level on a like-for-like basis year-on-year.

The Home Office will announce a Provisional Finance Settlement for the police for the CSR years, 2008-09 to 2010-11, in late November/early December as in previous years which will take account of responses to the recent consultation exercise on local government formula grant distribution.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcome was of the meeting at Heathrow on 30 July of police and their oversight bodies from around the UK and representatives of her Department and the Department for Transport to discuss a common approach to police-industry service agreements covering security, resourcing and costs. [157829]

Mr. McNulty: The meeting that took place on 30 July 2007 was arranged by the Metropolitan Police Authority for an invited audience of police authorities and police forces to discuss progress on the implementation of the provisions of the Civil Aviation Act 2006. The Act requires the airport operator and police at designated airports to agree a Police Services Agreement, which must be in place by 7 November 2007. Attendees shared with each other the progress that had been made in their local negotiations with airport operators and what further work may be needed to reach agreement.

Policing: Luton Airport

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to assist Bedfordshire police with the costs of policing London Luton airport following Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary 2006-07 assessments. [158500]

Mr. McNulty: *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* Luton airport is not a designated airport and as such the airport operator is not required, by law, to pay for the policing of the airport.

Bedfordshire Police Authority has been receiving substantial financial assistance for the policing of Luton airport for a number of years.

The system of designation and the cost of policing airports was raised in the Independent Review of Airport Policing 2006. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport and I are currently reviewing the process to enable the recovery of associated policing costs from airport operators.

Resettlement: Iraq

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans the Government has to assist Iraqis who wish to enter Great Britain and claim asylum, with particular reference to those who have worked in Iraq for the British Army; [158799]

(2) what measures the Government plans to put in place to help Iraqi interpreters who have worked for the British Army to claim asylum in the UK; [158800]

(3) if the Government will set up a website with instructions on claiming asylum in the UK aimed at Iraqis who have been employed by the British Army. [158801]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The Foreign Secretary announced in his written ministerial statement of 9 October the assistance that would be made available to help Iraqis employed by the Government in Iraq.

The statement also promised that we will announce further details, including on how eligible staff may apply, before the end of the month.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance the Office of Surveillance Commissioners has provided to local authorities on surveillance in relation to *(a)* the public smoking ban and *(b)* rubbish collection and waste disposal; and how many inspections of local authorities have taken place in relation to each. [158128]

Mr. McNulty: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners has not given specific guidance to local authorities and does not undertake thematic inspections of surveillance relating to specific investigative activity. Inspections conducted on behalf of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner are not designed to provide guidance but to review performance, although specific scenarios may have been addressed during inspections.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the local authorities inspected by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners in 2006-07 used surveillance for *(a)* enforcement of the public smoking ban, *(b)* tackling fly-tipping and *(c)* other issues relating to waste collection and disposal. [158136]

Mr. McNulty: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners does not break down its reports to reflect the specific purposes for which the conduct of surveillance is undertaken.

Terrorism Act 2000

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where information gathered under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is stored. [158848]

Mr. McNulty: Any information that may be retained as a result of a Schedule 7 examination is stored by the local constabulary covering the port concerned and may be shared with other police forces and Government agencies.

In terms of numbers of occasions when stops are made under Schedule 7, the relevant codes of practice advise that all Schedule 7 examinations lasting longer than one hour are recorded centrally and that examinations of shorter duration are recorded locally. There is no centrally held information about the number of stops made by police officers lasting less than one hour.

Terrorism Act 2000: Freedom of Information

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the process is by which an individual can apply for access to information gathered about them under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [158849]

Mr. McNulty: Any individual can apply for access to information gathered about them by contacting the local constabulary for the port concerned. Access details for the constabularies can be found on their websites.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commission for Equality and Human Rights: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected budget is for the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights in its first full year of operation. [157662]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

It is anticipated that the budget for the Equality and Human Rights Commission will be around £70 million which meets ministerial expectations.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Equal Opportunities Commission and *(c)* Disability Rights Commission was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [157494]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the resource and capital budgets on an annual basis for the Disability Rights Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

Organisation	*Resource Budget for financial year 2007-08 (expressed as annual figure) (£000)*
Disability Rights Commission	20,100
Equal Opportunities Commission	8,020
Commission for Racial Equality	19,392

Organisation	*Capital Budget for financial year 2007-08 (expressed as annual figure) (£000)*
Commission for Racial Equality	750

Commission for Equality and Human Rights: Redundancy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated for redundancy and severance payments to staff members of the *(a)* Equal Opportunities Commission, *(b)* Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* Commission for Racial Equality as part of the creation of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. [157455]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

No staff were made redundant. However, the cost of the voluntary severance scheme, excluding the ongoing costs of annual compensation payments (ACP) for people over age 50, is expected to be as follows: CRE cost £3,839,617; DRC cost £1,884,707 and the EOC cost £1,780,364.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158916]

Mr. Dhanda: Since joining the Department in June 2007, the Secretary of State has visited the following regions: the West Midlands (1), the North-West (6), the North-East (2), the South East (1) and has made numerous visits within London. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government plans to visit the remaining regions as soon as diary engagements permit her to do so.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Housing: Grants

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* arm's length management organisations have been granted approval to bid for Government grants to build new homes; on what dates the respective approvals were made; and what discussions she and the Minister for Housing have had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on extension of permissions to local authorities in Wales to bid for new housing grants. [157322]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation announced on 23 July that eight arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) and two local authority special purpose vehicles had pre-qualified as investment partners for the 2008-11 affordable housing programme and moved to the next stage of the bidding process.

The ALMOs named by the Corporation were Ashfield Homes, Brent Housing Partnership, City West Homes, Derby Homes, Hillingdon Homes, Hounslow Homes, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, and Sheffield Homes. The two local authorities were Knowsley metropolitan borough council and Norwich city council. Not all of these organisations will necessarily go on to bid or be successful in their bid. In particular, Hillingdon Homes recently failed to achieve 3 star status following its Audit Commission inspection and has been disapplied from bidding this autumn. Hillingdon will however have an opportunity to consider a new bid next year as a 2 star ALMO under the Corporation's revised criteria.

The Housing Corporation is responsible for the funding of development schemes in England. The Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for funding decisions for social housing in Wales.

Housing: Immigration

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to complete her review of the impact of immigration on *(a)* new house build and *(b)* previously-occupied housing. [155516]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has no plans to undertake a review of this nature. However, we do publish household growth projections, which form part of the evidence base for decisions on planning for housing, and which take into account data on past and projected migration trends. The latest household projections were published as 'New Projections of Households for England and the Regions to 2029' on 16 March 2007, on the Communities and Local Government website. The Department continues to consider the impacts of migration on a range of services and policies—including housing—through the Migration Impacts Forum.

Waste Management

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the existence of separate collection and disposal authorities within county council areas and the adoption of a strategic approach to waste management across the whole county council area. [157937]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The division of responsibilities between the waste disposal and collection authorities in two-tier areas can make sustainable waste management more challenging. Authorities in such areas have a statutory obligation to draw up joint municipal waste management strategies, subject to certain exemptions. These strategies help to encourage and deliver a strategic approach to waste management in two-tier areas.

A report on "Joint Working in Wastes Management[1]" by the Innovation Forum (a group of high-performing authorities) highlighted the benefits of joint working in two-tier areas, citing possible efficiency savings of around £150 million nationally. The report identified the limited legal basis for joint working arrangements as a key barrier to establishing such arrangements. In response to this, the Government have introduced powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill which will allow the establishment of joint waste authorities.

[1] http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/4821783

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how fuel is transported into theatre in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [154226]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding details of specific routes of supply as the release of information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the contribution made to greenhouse gas emissions of the deployment of British military forces in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [157324]

Derek Twigg: Based upon the available data for quantities of aviation and ground fuel supplied in the operational theatres, it is estimated that the average carbon dioxide emissions directly attributable to the deployment of British military forces in Afghanistan and Iraq totalled approximately 250,000 tonnes and 200,000 tonnes respectively for any 12-month period during 2005-07. This can be compared to the MOD's total carbon dioxide emissions (from its estate and non-operational activities such as training) of approximately 5.5 million tonnes per annum and the UK's national emissions of approximately 560 million tonnes per annum in the same period. Data on operational emissions of other greenhouse gases are not currently collated.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes are proposed to the numbers of *(a)* destroyers and *(b)* frigates in consequence of the ordering of the two future aircraft carriers. [157213]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The defence programme is kept under regular review. No decision has been made to change the number of destroyers or frigates.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what protection is given to British military personnel from indirect fire in their living quarters. [154264]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Indirect fire (IDF) is a serious threat which we seek to counter using a layered approach to force protection. This includes the use of hardened infrastructure, security patrols, intelligence gathering, counter measures and, where appropriate, both reactive and proactive strikes against enemy IDF capabilities. It is, however, impossible entirely to eliminate the risks from IDF attacks.

I am withholding details of force protection arrangements in Iraq and Afghanistan as their release would be likely to prejudice the safety or security of our armed forces.

Defence: Inflation

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the National Statistics Quality Review of Ministry of Defence Finance and Economic Statistics Implementation Plan, what progress his Department has made in creating a defence-specific inflation index; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [156235]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Work on developing a Defence related price index commenced in 2004-05 and has continued since. Unfortunately, despite commitment by both the Office for National Statistics and Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA), work has as yet failed to produce a defence specific inflation index.

Matching the companies, to which MOD has made payments, with Office for National Statistics data has been difficult due to changes in names, ownership, recording of information and ONS data on prices being from a sample survey. Less than 20 per cent. of companies paid more than £1 million by MOD in 2002-03 could be matched to price data, which accounted for less than 30 per cent. of MOD spend. Confining analysis to the subset of Defence problems further decreases this already poor coverage causing any estimates of defence inflation to be unreliable and biased.

Using published indices for MOD purchases of goods and services, and indeed the underlying data for these indices also presents a variety of problems. Price changes collected by ONS represent off the shelf products whereas the large value goods that MOD buys tend to be bespoke systems. Quality adjustment of price indices is appropriate for determining change in value, but not for the replacement costs that MOD faces. It is difficult to incorporate overseas expenditure. Indices used in placing contracts frequently do not reflect the expenditure patterns of the MOD.

Work continues to overcome these challenges.

Departments: Departmental Expenditure Limits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the request for resources 1 *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL forecast control totals are for each of his Department's top level budget holders in each of the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [158391]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 636W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

Departments: General Election

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157003]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W, by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first told that the Prime Minister would be announcing troop withdrawals during his visit to Iraq. [157216]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: In preparing for the Prime Minister's visit, I discussed with him all aspects of our future policy in Iraq including troop withdrawals.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what bases UK forces are stationed in Iraq; and what measures are in place in each such base to prevent death or injury from rocket attack. [158445]

Des Browne: The precise area of deployment of UK forces in Iraq can and does vary according to the operational circumstances. The vast majority of UK forces are based at the Contingency Operating Base at Basra airport. UK forces are also present in much smaller numbers at a number of other locations in Iraq, including in Baghdad and Dhi Qar province.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2072, to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard) about force protection.

Navy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what long-term capacity the Royal Navy will retain in respect of *(a)* minehunters and *(b)* patrol vessels. [157212]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: While the defence programme is kept under regular review, the July 2004 White Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World - Future Capabilities" (CM6269) explained that we plan to retain a fleet of 16 mine counter measure vessels. We also intend to maintain a balanced fleet of patrol vessels to fulfil a variety of commitments in home waters and overseas.

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals *(a)* captured and *(b)* killed by British Forces in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since 2001 have been of Iranian nationality. [157036]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence does not maintain records on the nationality of individuals killed in engagements involving UK forces in Iraq or Afghanistan.

As far as we can determine, no Iranian nationals have been processed at the Divisional Internment Facility or its predecessor, the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility, since the latter was established in December 2003. However, most individuals logged in our records do not have their nationality recorded, primarily because this is not always readily attainable and verifiable. Our records indicate that five Iranian nationals were captured and released by UK forces in Iraq prior to December 2003.

Individuals captured by UK forces in Afghanistan are held only temporarily before being either released or passed to the Afghan authorities. We do not routinely maintain records on nationality in these cases.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of days for Relief in Place operations between each roulement to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq was in each year since 2001. [157040]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In Afghanistan, large-scale Relief in Place operations were not conducted prior to the start of Herrick IV in 2006. The average number of days for subsequent Relief in Place operations in 2006 was 55 days.

In Iraq, the average number of days for Relief in Place operations after the initial deployment of 2003 was as follows:

	Days
2003	36
2004	46
2005	46
2006	49

Roulements for 2007 are not yet complete, but the proposed timelines suggest that the average will be 47 days and 36 days for Afghanistan and Iraq respectively.

Salisbury Plain: Hunting

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether trail and drag hunting is permitted on the Salisbury Plain Training Area. [157074]

Derek Twigg: Hunts and beagle packs that have traditionally hunted over defence land are permitted to trail and drag hunt on the defence estate, including Salisbury Plain, subject to the issue of an appropriate licence. However, trail and drag hunting activities cannot currently take place on Ministry of Defence land due to the foot and mouth outbreak, as part of measures implemented by DEFRA to control the spread of the disease.

Submarines: Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timeline he expects for the future submarine programme, including the dates for *(a)* high level design specification, *(b)* design matures, *(c)* long leads, *(d)* start of construction, *(e)* nuclear power plant trials and *(f)* sea trials. [158336]

Des Browne: The Future Submarine Programme is required to deliver a new submarine in around 2024, which is the forecast date for entry into service of the first of the new class. The timetable to achieve this comprises a two-year concept phase, a seven-year design phase, a seven-year build phase and a period of sea trials. Work on the concept phase is now under way and dates for various aspects of the programme are under consideration as part of this work. As stated in my answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1252W, to the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llwyd), we currently expect to reach the Initial Gate approval point in 2009. This will signify the end of the concept phase.

War Pensions

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which areas of the world members of the merchant marine who qualify for a war pension served. [158440]

Derek Twigg: This information is not available in the form requested. The Mercantile Marine scheme provides for awards to be made to members of the mercantile marine who have sustained injuries whilst serving during conflict and war. The scheme dates from the second world war and in addition to that war the scheme applied in principle to members of the mercantile marine involved in the Korean war, the Suez crisis, the Falklands conflict and the first Gulf conflict.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what objections his Department made to wind farm planning applications in each of the last two years. [158424]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has objected to a total of 21 planning applications since October 2005.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Discrimination Law Review

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government plan to publish their response to the consultation on the Discrimination Law Review Green Paper. [157818]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: We were pleased with the substantial response to the consultation—more than 4,000 replies. I will be considering the Government's response with colleagues and plan to publish it as soon as possible.

Equality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the Government's definition is of equality. [157725]

Barbara Follett: The Government's vision of an equal society is one where there is opportunity for all and responsibility from all, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation. In such a society all people should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential and the talents of each should contribute to the well being of all.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government plan to publish their Single Equality Bill. [157819]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The responses to the consultation on proposals for a new Equality Bill are currently being considered. We remain committed to introducing the Act during this Parliament.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Buildings

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the addresses were of each of the premises occupied by the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* Equal Opportunities Commission prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157115]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows.

Legacy Commission operating locations

	Addresses
Commission for Racial Equality	
Manchester	5th floor, Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ
London	St. Dunstan's House, 201-211 Borough High Street London, SE1 1GZ
Birmingham	3rd floor, Lancaster House, 67 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1NA
Edinburgh	2nd Floor, The Tun, 4 Jacksons Entry, off Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8PJ
Cardiff	3rd floor, Capital Tower, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3AG
CRE regional hubs	
London	4th Floor, St. Dunstan's House, London, SE1 1GZ
Newcastle	Government Office for the North East, City Gate, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4WH
Leeds	Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT
Nottingham	Government Office for the East Midlands, The Belgrave Centre, Stanley Place, Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GG
Cambridge	Government Office for the East of England, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 2DF
Guildford	Government Office for the South East, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4GA
Bristol	Government Office for the South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EH
Disability Rights Commission	
Manchester	2nd and 3rd floors, Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ
London	Fox Court, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8HN
Edinburgh	1st Floor Riverside House, Edinburgh, EH11 3AF
Cardiff	Ground Floor (Unit 5), Ty-nant Court, Cardiff, CR15 8LW
Bangor	Bangor House, Bangor, LL57 1LH
Equal Opportunities Commission	
Manchester	4th and 5th floors, Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ
London	36 Broadway, London, SW1H OXH
Glasgow	St. Stephens House, 279 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JL
Cardiff	Windsor House, Windsor Lane Cardiff CF10 3GE

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the addresses are of each of the premises occupied by the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157116]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows.

	Addresses
Manchester	Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ
	Lowry House, Spring Gardens, Manchester M2 3AW. (Temporary accommodation until relocation to 5th floor, Arndale House—November 2007)
London	3 More London, Riverside, Tooley Street SE1 2RG
	Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW. (Temporary accommodation until relocation to 3 More London—November 2007)
Cardiff	1st Floor, 3 Callaghan Square, Cardiff CF10 5BT

	Addresses
	3rd floor, Capital Tower, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3AG. (Temporary accommodation until relocation to 3 Callaghan Square—December 2007). Plus a satellite office located in Bangor
Glasgow	The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DU St. Stephens House, 279 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JL. (Temporary accommodation until relocation to the Optima Building—December 2007)
Edinburgh	The Tun, 4 Jacksons Entry, off Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8PJ (co-locating with Scottish Enterprise)
Birmingham	3rd floor, Lancaster House, 67 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1NA

English regional hubs

	Addresses
London	Fifth Floor, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SZ
Newcastle	Government Office for the North East, City Gate, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4WH
Leeds	Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT
Nottingham	Government Office for the East Midlands, The Belgrave Centre, Stanley Place, Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GG
Cambridge	Government Office for the East of England, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 2DF
Guildford	Government Office for the South East, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4GA
Bristol	Government Office for the South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EH

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the total budgets were of the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* Equal Opportunities Commission in the most recent period prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157117]

Barbara Follett: The following tables show the resource and capital budgets on an annual basis for the Disability Rights Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

Organisation	*£000* *Resource budget for financial year 2007-8 (expressed as annual figure)*
Disability Rights Commission	20,100
Equal Opportunities Commission	8,020
Commission for Racial Equality	19,392

Organisation	*£000* *Capital budget for financial year 2007-8 (expressed as annual figure)*
Commission for Racial Equality	750

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the annual budget of the Equality and Human Rights Commission is expected to be. [157118]

Barbara Follett: As stated in the explanatory notes to the Equality Bill, the estimate of the annual budget for the Equality and Human Rights Commission when it is fully operational is £70 million.

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the total annual cost was of *(a)* salaries, *(b)* pension contributions and *(c)* bonuses of staff employed by the (i) Commission for Racial Equality, (ii) Disability Rights Commission and (iii) Equal Opportunities Commission in the latest period available prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157111]

Barbara Follett: We do not have the information available to give an accurate answer to this question at present. Salary information will be available following completion of the final accounts of the three Commissions.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent on redundancy packages for staff employed by *(a)* the Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* the Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* the Equal Opportunities Commission prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157108]

Barbara Follett: No staff were made redundant. However, the cost of the voluntary severance scheme, excluding the ongoing costs of annual compensation payments (ACP) for people over age 50, is expected to be as follows: CRE cost £3,839,617; DRC cost £1,884,707 and the EOC cost £1,780,364.

Flexible Working

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans the Government has to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees. [157755]

Barbara Follett: The right to request flexible work has been a huge success—and in April this year we extended the right to carers of adults—that is another 2.65 million employees.

In the recently published Priorities for the Ministers for Women Command Paper, I made a commitment to support the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in considering whether to extend the right to request flexible work to parents of older children.

Refugees: Forced Prostitution

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the extent and causes of Iraqi women and children who have become refugees being forced into prostitution; what action the UK Government are taking in this regard; and if she will make a statement. [156087]

Barbara Follett: The UK Government are concerned at reports, including from the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), that some Iraqi refugee women and young girls have been forced to resort to prostitution and children forced into labour or other forms of exploitation to survive. We will continue to support the efforts of UNHCR, who are working closely with host country Governments to assess and address the needs of all Iraqi refugees.

So far this year the UK Government have committed £15 million to support humanitarian agencies working in Iraq and the region , bringing our total humanitarian assistance for vulnerable Iraqis to over £130 million since 2003. We remain in close contact with our humanitarian partners to ensure they are adequately resourced to respond to needs on the ground.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that court hearings, including appeal hearings, relating to underage sales of alcohol are conducted promptly. [159101]

Maria Eagle: All cases, in both the magistrates court and appeals to the Crown court, are dealt with on their merits and are heard as quickly as possible. The Government's Criminal Justice Simple, Speedy, Summary (CJSSS) programme is under way to improve court processes in the magistrates courts to ensure that cases are dealt with as fairly and as quickly as possible. Early indications are that the programme will have a significant impact on eliminating unnecessary hearings and reducing the time from charge to disposal for adult charged cases. This should also allow summons cases such as underage sale of alcohol to be heard more quickly.

Arms Trade: Israel

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Legal Services Commission is funding a case brought by Mr. Saleh Hassan against the UK Government in relation to Israeli policy in the West Bank. [159040]

Maria Eagle: Saleh Hasan is receiving legal aid to fund a judicial review of the British Government in relation to the granting of export licences for the sale of arms to Israel. Individual funding decisions are made by the Legal Services Commission in accordance with the Access to Justice Act 1999 and other documents laid before Parliament.

Coroners

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the oldest outstanding inquest is in each coroner's jurisdiction; [156048]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average time taken to complete an inquest in England and Wales in each year since 2001, broken down by coroner's jurisdiction; [156049]

(3) how many inquests were pending before coroners in England and Wales at the end of each calendar year since 2001, broken down by coroner's jurisdiction. [156050]

Bridget Prentice: For the oldest outstanding inquest in each district, as at 31 December 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1157-60W, in response to a similar question. More up-to-date information is not held centrally.

The average time in weeks taken to complete an inquest in England and Wales, for each coroner's district, in each year since 2004 (the earliest year for which figures are available) is shown in the following tables.

The number of inquests outstanding within each coroner's district as at 31 December 2006, and at the end of each calendar year since 2001 is shown in the following tables.

Annex A: Estimated average time to conduct an inquest, in weeks, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
The Queen's Household	n/a	n/a	n/a
North East			
Darlington and South Durham	26	28	25
North Durham	19	22	24
Hartlepool	U	15	17
North Northumberland	21	25	25
South Northumberland	20	18	17
Teesside	35	28	28
Gateshead and South Tyneside	24	22	24
Newcastle upon Tyne	21	20	21
North Tyneside	21	20	18
Sunderland	23	15	19
North West			
Cheshire	28	27	28
North East Cumbria	32	32	30

A higher score on the annual Patient Environment Action Team assessments is significantly correlated with lower rates of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile*, although this is unlikely to be a direct relationship. Links between infection and cleanliness vary according to the specific micro-organism involved, and high standards of hygiene are likely to have a greater effect on *Clostridium difficile* rates, for instance, than on MRSA.

Even for those micro-organisms where the environment has less impact, it is still important that hospitals are kept clean. Patients consistently rate cleanliness as one of their highest priorities for the NHS.

The figure of £50 million is an indicative amount. The final amount will depend on the needs of each hospital, which will inevitably vary. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) will work with their primary care trusts to commission deep cleaning at a locally-agreed cost, and to monitor total spend in their areas. Performance management and evaluation will also be carried out locally.

The deep cleaning programme is an important part of our work in relation to health care associated infections, and will therefore be targeted towards acute trusts. However, all hospitals should be clean, and SHAs have the discretion to include other hospitals, including mental health and learning disability units.

Deep cleaning is time consuming and can be disruptive. Dependent on the approach taken, it may be necessary to close wards or bays. For most trusts, this will take months, rather than weeks. We expect that the majority of activity will be complete by year-end.

Hospitals: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken in the last two years on the *(a)* minimum size and *(b)* staffing needs of (i) an accident and emergency unit and (ii) a maternity unit in order to meet the August 2009 requirements of the European Working Time Directive; what cost to the public purse he expects to arise from meeting those requirements; and if he will make a statement. [157005]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local national health service trusts are responsible for implementing the European Working Time Directive (WTD) as part of their health and safety obligations. Strategic health authorities and the Department offer support with WTD planning. The Department is sponsoring NHS National Workforce Projects (NWPs) to support local implementation of WTD 2009. NHS NWPs has commissioned a range of pilots including cooperative solutions, team working, handover and escalation and 24:7 working (which include accident and emergency and maternity units). The pilots take in a wide variety of organisations to look at solutions which are transferable across the NHS. There is ongoing evaluation of the pilots to share lessons learned as early as possible.

Hospitals: Personnel

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance there is for NHS staff to relocate to work in alternative healthcare facilities in the event of the closure or downgrading of district hospitals. [157020]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Assistance with expenses incurred as a result of any relocation arising from a reconfiguration proposal are determined locally in consultation with staff representatives.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccinations

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department is taking steps to ensure that young women who left school in summer 2007 before the human papilloma virus vaccination programme was introduced have access to this vaccination on the NHS; [157998]

(2) what decision has been made by his Department regarding a catch-up campaign for the human papilloma virus vaccine for females aged between 12 to 26 years. [158008]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has agreed, in principle, to accept Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice that human papilloma virus vaccines should be introduced routinely for girls aged around 12 to 13 years, subject to independent peer review of the cost-benefit analysis.

A detailed analysis is being carried out by the JCVI regarding the cost-benefit analysis, and this work is being externally peer reviewed to ensure its robustness. The Department will consider the issue when the advice from JCVI is available.

Infant Foods

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Department has taken to restrict the promotion of breast milk substitutes. [157223]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is working with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to look at ways of further restricting the promotion of breast milk substitutes within the United Kingdom regulations stemming from the European Union directive on infant and follow-on formula. The draft regulations issued for public consultation on 2 July ended on 28 September. Comments received from the stakeholders are being collated and evaluated by the FSA. Stakeholders' comments will then be published together with the FSA's responses. The FSA also intends to consult in the near future on the accompanying draft guidance notes. The directive requires that regulations come into force on 1 January 2008.

Internet: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the NHS Choices website has been since its establishment. [158749]

Mr. Bradshaw: To date, £7.9 million has been spent on the design, development and operation of the website.

Maternity Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many roadside births have taken place *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [157396]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Medical Treatments: Arthritis

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action he is taking to ensure that the full range of biologics is available to patients with rheumatoid arthritis. [158145]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* All primary care trusts in England and Wales are obliged to fund, from general allocations, drug therapies for those patients with rheumatoid arthritis who meet the clinical guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

MRSA: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA were reported in *(a)* each London hospital and *(b)* each London primary care trust in each of the last five years. [157375]

Ann Keen: The information is not available as requested. The mandatory surveillance of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) in England applies to national health service acute trusts only. Data on primary care trusts are not compiled.

Since April 2001, trusts in England have reported all cases of MRSA bacteraemias (bloodstream infections), to the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Data covering the period April 2002 to March 2007 were published on 25 July 2007. The data for those trusts in London are summarised in the following table.

MRSA bacteraemias; London (that is within London strategic health authority: April 2002 to March 2007)

April to March each year	*Number of bacteraemias*
2002-03	1,707
2003-04	1,682
2004-05	1,392
2005-06	1,320
2006-07	1,205

Source:
HPA

NHS: Ancillary Staff

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* caretakers, *(b)* hospital porters and *(c)* cleaners were employed by each London Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997. [157633]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held in the format requested. However, the following table shows the amount of non-medical staff employed in London since 1997 at strategic health authority (SHA) level.

NHS hospital and community health services: maintenance and works staff and support workers in the hotel, property and estates area of work in the London strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

	Headcount
1997	6,266
1998	5,494
1999	5,468
2000	5,064
2001	5,124
2002	5,189
2003	5,318
2004	5,631
2005	5,768
2006	4,827

Notes:
1. These figures are for staff directly employed by the NHS only. The Non-Medical Workforce Census does not cover contracted services staff. Maintenance and works and support staff in hotel, property and estates include caretakers/handypersons, gardeners and grounds, maintenance staff, catering staff and cleaning staff. There is no way to separately identify any of these occupations from the census data.
2. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures. This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends overtime.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the gateway reviews of the NHS IT programme. [155866]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have no current plans to do so. The Gateway review reports are intended to help and inform the management of the programme and the Department's own decisions. They are not intended for publication.

More generally, the Government believe that the prospect of disclosure of any Gateway review would restrain the frankness and candour with which participants engage in the Gateway process, and that this in turn would undermine its effectiveness and the quality of recommendations arising. Gateway reviews perform an important role in ensuring that public authorities are using their resources in an efficient and effective way and there is therefore a strong and vital public interest in maintaining their efficacy.

NHS: Leave

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rules or guidelines his Department has in place governing the length of time that NHS employees are allowed to take paid leave on *(a)* compassionate and *(b)* other grounds; what the overall maximum period is for which paid leave will be given; and if he will make a statement. [157737]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The position on paid leave is outlined in the terms and conditions for particular staff groups and depends on time served and individual circumstances.

For medical staff the "National Health Service Hospital Medical and Dental Staff and Doctors in Public Health Medicine and the Community Health Service (England and Wales)", and the "Terms and Conditions of Service for Consultants (England) 2003" have been placed in the Library and are also available at:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-348.cfm

For non-medical staff the "Agenda for Change NHS Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook", has been placed in the Library and also available at:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-198.cfm

NHS: Reorganisation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy that all consultations on NHS service reconfiguration will contain as one option the retention of services in their existing configuration; [157006]

(2) what research his Department has conducted into the impact of relocation or closure of hospital services on patient access to healthcare facilities in areas with disproportionately high numbers of elderly residents; [157015]

(3) whether his Department has undertaken an assessment of the impact on local economies of closing district general hospitals. [157021]

Ann Keen: The Department of Health has not undertaken specific research into the relocation of local health care services.

Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

The recently published interim report on the NHS Next Stage Review makes it clear that no major service change should happen except on the basis of need and sound clinical evidence.

NHS: Temporary Employment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of staffing costs were spent on agency staff in each London primary care trust in each of the last five years. [157376]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Trust code	*Trust name*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Percentage 2005-06*
5A4	Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT)	9.23	13.51	11.61	11.84	10.99
5A5	Kingston PCT	6.05	8.35	8.48	5.62	5.23
5A6	Teddington, Twickenham and Hamptons PCT	8.65	—	—	—	—
5A7	Bromley PCT	3.94	5.26	5.80	4.89	3.80
5A8	Greenwich PCT	2.83	2.91	9.12	6.39	6.39
5A9	Barnet PCT	6.41	8.73	9.11	8.72	7.67
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	1.64	4.26	7.89	7.19	3.05
5AX	Bexley PCT	4.37	3.57	—	—	—
5C1	Enfield PCT	8.50	10.38	10.16	9.33	6.25
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	6.67	7.89	10.33	8.42	8.86
5C3	City and Hackney PCT	14.20	14.92	12.73	12.45	14.48
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	9.71	9.30	10.30	9.82	8.60
5C5	Newham PCT	8.06	9.18	8.20	7.95	6.05
5C6	Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	8.40	16.13	—	—	—
5C8	Redbridge PCT	5.84	7.25	—	—	—
5C9	Haringey PCT	—	10.36	10.90	13.89	7.70
5A4	Havering PCT	—	9.23	13.51	11.61	11.84
5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	—	15.55	—	—	—
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	—	7.65	13.74	7.54	3.40
5HX	Ealing PCT	—	11.49	13.74	11.52	10.54
5HY	Hounslow PCT	—	12.40	9.71	7.18	7.51
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	—	20.23	15.52	16.62	10.88
5K6	Harrow PCT	—	3.47	2.25	2.64	2.14
5K7	Camden PCT	—	15.10	15.65	16.42	10.39
5K8	Islington PCT	—	21.23	14.23	15.37	8.89
5K9	Croydon PCT	—	11.14	11.41	9.62	5.33
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	—	16.54	32.77	11.88	7.90
5LC	Westminster PCT	—	17.60	17.38	6.59	5.05
5LD	Lambeth PCT	—	18.19	14.60	11.24	9.90
5LE	Southwark PCT	—	6.94	7.20	9.75	8.26
5LF	Lewisham PCT	—	6.12	6.10	6.59	6.22
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	—	9.80	8.90	7.07	4.57
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	11.75	10.79	11.81	7.03
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	—	5.20	6.40	7.69	4.92
5NA	Redbridge PCT	—	—	12.99	12.49	11.31

Trust code	Trust name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Percentage 2005-06
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	—	—	14.37	11.66	10.59
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	—	—	3.73	4.65	0.00

Source:
PCT financial returns 2001-02 to 2005-06

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on agency staff by each NHS trust in London in each of the last five years. [157377]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Trust type	Code	Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Trust	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	13,604,955	15,461,613	10,954,848	10,407,000	8,157,000
Trust	RAN	The Royal Nat Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	2,496,228	1,840,908	3,013,198	3,066,000	1,924,000
Trust	RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	4,800,349	5,741,399	5,204,896	4,240,000	3,450,000
Trust	RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	3,833,204	5,168,414	3,923,783	2,834,000	2,377,000
Trust	RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	9,000,287	13,903,994	15,382,515	12,699,000	11,883,000
Trust	RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	7,224,006	7,525,363	8,161,046	4,410,000	4,146,000
Trust	RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	5,832,333	4,509,789	3,555,379	3,966,000	3,239,500
Trust	RDA	Parkside NHS Trust	7,527,191	—	—	—	—
Trust	RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS Trust	13,264,970	16,631,937	13,438,178	14,030,000	11,470,000
Trust	RFW	West Middlesex University NHS Trust	4,218,483	5,889,792	4,371,485	2,978,000	2,090,000
Trust	RFX	Hounslow and Spelthorne Community and Mental Health Trust	5,219,677	—	—	—	—
Trust	RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	5,641,266	5,367,156	3,945,481	1,743,000	1,462,000
Trust	RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	9,031,691	8,587,813	9,563,113	8,605,000	5,250,000
Trust	RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	12,706,456	15,363,589	13,773,048	14,604,000	12,676,000
Trust	RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	1,553,360	1,551,625	1,701,035	1,924,000	1,859,000
Trust	RHB	Camden and Islington Community Health NHS Trust	6,533,615	—	—	—	—
Trust	RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	30,364,312	29,705,544	25,171,131	25,941,000	24,589,000
Trust	RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	5,272,527	4,739,987	5,552,729	6,121,000	4,079,000
Trust	RJ5	St. Mary's NHS Trust	16,097,781	18,644,502	16,969,989	16,175,000	12,124,000
Trust	RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	6,995,413	4,284,696	6,198,692	7,080,000	5,740,000
Trust	RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	12,005,192	13,371,348	13,760,315	13,288,000	9,273,000
Trust	FUZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	15,091,926	16,277,799	10,116,582	8,829,000	7,344,000
Trust	RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	6,669,932	8,534,065	7,395,383	6,081,000	4,883,000
Trust	RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	6,011,659	8,755,691	10,433,356	6,877,000	6,365,000
Trust	RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	8,515,572	10,936,321	9,714,522	6,654,000	4,756,000
Trust	RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	16,705,717	17,756,830	13,930,839	12,623,000	10,798,000
Trust	RNK	Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust	428,145	483,647	521,980	488,000	747,000
Trust	RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	6,981,457	7,123,977	7,072,106	6,026,000	4,500,000
Trust	RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust	2,097,130	2,409,575	2,916,818	3,055,000	3,387,000
Trust	RPG	Oxleas NHS Trust	4,463,392	4,583,905	4,845,467	3,835,000	3,493,000
Trust	RPY	The Royal Marsden NHS Trust	6,016,314	6,486,700	7,277,656	7,147,000	4,390,000
Trust	RQK	Harrow and Hillingdon Healthcare NHS Trust	2,412,876	—	—	—	—
Trust	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare Trust	5,924,034	15,393,752	5,159,421	6,408,000	5,846,000
Trust	RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	17,314,250	23,267,019	26,489,845	17,698,000	11,668,000
Trust	RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust	8,263,101	9,336,033	9,704,632	10,076,000	10,074,000
Trust	RQY	South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust	10,172,640	10,515,594	17,324,397	22,301,000	13,722,000
Trust	RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	7,226,801	6,192,881	6,948,524	7,450,000	6,130,000
Trust	RRQ	Camden and Islington Mental Health NHS Trust	9,411,238	—	—	—	—
Trust	RRU	London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,230,256	1,634,950	2,395,090	2,201,000	2,188,000

£

Trust type	Code	Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Trust	RRV	University College London Hospital NHS Trust	20,466,581	20,673,155	17,399,310	13,752,000	12,631,000
Trust	RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	4,516,185	3,816,947	3,347,366	2,481,000	2,405,000
Trust	RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	6,813,917	8,957,955	8,546,822	8,306,000	8,234,000
Trust	RV4	Community Health South London NHS Trust	6,604,586	—	—	—	—
Trust	RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	21,139,705	20,345,552	17,689,185	19,051,000	19,007,000
Trust	RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	9,784,744	11,674,257	11,890,747	9,541,000	7,245,000
Trust	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	9,088,160	10,086,102	11,193,797	7,763,000	5,671,000
Trust	RVM	South West London Community NHS Trust	4,762,754	—	—	—	—
Trust	RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	12,725,023	6,623,636	4,048,599	3,085,000	3,263,000
Trust	RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	4,571,296	5,409,207	6,599,827	7,122,000	5,961,800
Trust	TAP	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	—	10,007,932	7,806,406	3,787,000	4,173,000
PCT	5A4	Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT)	1,784,029	3,306,431	3,013,630	3,702,000	3,672,000
PCT	5A5	Kingston PCT	969,000	1,476,730	1,615,253	1,216,000	1,241,000
PCT	5A6	Teddington, Twickenham and Hamptons PCT	487,529	—	—	—	—
PCT	5A7	Bromley PCT	911,818	1,350,841	1,657,347	1,669,000	1,314,000
PCT	5A8	Greenwich PCT	420,566	489,243	1,789,062	1,515,000	1,739,000
PCT	5A9	Barnet PCT	1,726,987	2,634,645	2,918,939	3,353,000	3,036,000
PCT	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	208,313	862,804	2,681,069	2,549,000	1,137,000
PCT	SAX	Bexley PCT	432,635	420,119	—	—	—
PCT	SCI	Enfield PCT	1,410,111	2,324,698	2,613,936	2,880,000	1,996,000
PCT	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	713,693	1,125,298	1,806,601	1,729,000	1,911,000
PCT	5C3	City and Hackney PCT	2,526,148	3,031,913	2,923,475	3,392,000	4,602,000
PCT	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	3,384,549	3,328,811	4,157,185	4,765,000	4,719,000
PCT	5C5	Newham PCT	2,305,881	2,995,782	2,957,327	3,482,000	2,704,000
PCT	5C6	Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	571,277	1,592,907	—	—	—
PCT	5C8	Redbridge PCT	450,957	672,965	—	—	—
PCT	5C9	Haringey PCT	2,059,094	2,657,939	3,532,802	2,479,000	3,703,000
PCT	5NA	Redbridge PCT	—	—	2,314,926	2,551,000	2,404,000
PCT	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	—	—	2,653,207	2,623,000	2,595,000
PCT	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	—	—	577,999	899,000	557,000
PCT	5A4	Havering PCT	1,784,029	3,306,431	3,013,630	3,702,000	3,672,000
PCT	5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	—	1,747,623	—	—	—
PCT	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	—	1,829,625	3,297,599	1,906,000	811,000
PCT	5HX	Ealing PCT	—	3,909,123	4,398,000	4,152,000	4,030,000
PCT	5HY	Hounslow PCT	—	2,039,203	1,714,000	1,476,000	1,603,000
PCT	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	—	5,826,724	4,805,787	6,645,000	4,684,000
PCT	5K6	Harrow PCT	—	794,352	435,540	542,000	470,000
PCT	5K7	Camden PCT	—	5,287,134	5,436,895	7,652,000	5,187,000
PCT	5K8	Islington PCT	—	7,364,405	3,785,270	4,823,000	3,243,000
PCT	5K9	Croydon PCT	—	2,859,539	3,108,035	2,949,000	1,693,000
PCT	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	—	5,087,637	10,022,128	3,934,000	2,749,000
PCT	5LC	Westminster PCT	—	6,164,170	5,169,353	2,403,000	1,804,000
PCT	5LD	Lambeth PCT	—	4,445,170	3,898,639	3,795,000	3,646,000
PCT	5LE	Southwark PCT	—	1,595,273	2,025,498	3,107,000	2,953,000
PCT	5LF	Lewisham PCT	—	1,906,539	2,097,786	2,620,000	2,689,000
PCT	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	—	4,185,528	3,934,482	3,688,000	2,424,000
PCT	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	1,226,814	1,270,905	1,838,000	1,186,000
PCT	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	—	1,827,001	2,517,461	3,578,000	2,456,000

Source:
Trust financial returns 2001-02—2005-06
Foundation trust annual reports (Monitor) 2004-05 and 2005-06
PCT financial returns 2001-02 -2005-06

Paramedical Staff: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* paramedics and *(b)* paramedics in training there are in Lancashire; and how many there were in each year since 2000. [157584]

Ann Keen: Information on the numbers of paramedics in training is not collected centrally. Numbers of paramedics in the North West Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust and predecessor organisations is set out in the following table.

	Number
2000	945
2001	966
2002	902
2003	1,037
2004	1,037
2005	1,181
2006	1,175

Note:
In July 2006, Mersey Ambulance Service, Cumbria Ambulance Service, Greater Manchester Ambulance Service and Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trusts merged to form North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many linear accelerators he expects to be available to the NHS in each year of the next 10 years. [156782]

Ann Keen: The Department does not routinely collect these data, the acquisition of resources is a matter for local determination based on local needs. However when final deliveries are completed, as part of the recent central procurement, there will be approximately 250 linear accelerators (linacs) installed in national health service trusts in England.

The National Radiotherapy Advisory Group report published in May 2007 has recommended that more linacs will be needed over the next 10 years. The recommendations in this report are being considered as part of the development of the cancer reform strategy.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all radiotherapy centres have plans in place to deliver the 4-tier skills mix model. [156783]

Ann Keen: All trusts with radiotherapy centres are being encouraged to review their skill mix following the recommendations made by the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group (NRAG) produced in May 2007, however radiotherapy staffing profiles need to be based on local needs and priorities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radiotherapy departments have more than eight linear accelerators. [156784]

Ann Keen: Three[1] radiotherapy departments in England have more than eight linear accelerators on site. These are Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. However, we do not hold information on whether all these machines are in routine clinical use. Some of these machines may be used for clinical research, training purposes or used as back up when another machine requires maintenance.

[1] *Source:*
Health Protection Agency -linear accelerator installed base 2007

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of fractions per linear accelerator was in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by radiotherapy facility. [156785]

Ann Keen: In 2005, a radiotherapy equipment survey was carried out by the National Cancer Services Analysis Team. Results from this survey were included in the report of the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group that was published in May 2007.

As set out in this report 39 out of 48 Trusts with radiotherapy facilities in England responded to the survey. The median radiotherapy centre gave 7,400 fractions per linac and 16 out of the 39 centres delivered more than 8,000 fractions per linac on average. A chart showing the range of productivity across the 39 radiotherapy facilities in England that responded to the survey has been placed in Library.

The radiotherapy equipment survey has recently been repeated and the updated information is currently being validated. A more up-to-date position should therefore be available by the end of October 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many linear accelerators were available to the NHS in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what average number of fractions per annum was delivered by each. [156786]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data in the format requested, however, the following information might be helpful.

The National Radiotherapy Advisory Group Report published in May 2007 indicated that there were 215 linear accelerators (linacs) in England in August 2006 and that the median radiotherapy centre gave 7,400 fractions per linac averaged across the centre.

From the 39 centres out of 48 that responded to a radiotherapy equipment survey in 2004-05 undertaken by the National Cancer Services Analysis team, the annual average fractions per linear accelerator was 7,522. This included all linacs which were recorded as having been in routine clinical use for the whole year and excluded Cobalt units, machines used for backup, and two machines with very low activity levels less than 100 courses.

The radiotherapy equipment survey has been repeated and results should be available shortly.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the number of hybrid virtual environments on radiotherapy training sites. [156787]

Ann Keen: In May 2007 we announced £5 million of capital funding to support the introduction of virtual skills training facilities to national health service trusts and universities where therapeutic radiography training is undertaken. The National Cancer Director wrote to trusts and universities supporting radiotherapy training on 6 October 2007 inviting them to apply for funding to allow them to procure the facilities.

Waiting Lists: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were for *(a)* general surgery, *(b)* ear, nose and throat surgery, *(c)* neurosurgery, *(d)* geriatric medicine and *(e)* general medicine in each London primary care trust in each of the last five years. [157390]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

TREASURY

Cancer: North East Region

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people *(a)* were diagnosed with and *(b)* died from (i) cancer and (ii) breast cancer in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside and (C) the North East in each year since 1997. [156763]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have (a) been diagnosed with and (b) died from (i) cancer and (ii) breast cancer in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside and (C) the North East in each year since 1997. (156763)

The latest available figures for (a) newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2004 (England and Wales). Numbers of cases of (i) all cancers and (ii) breast cancer, for the years 1997 to 2004 for (A) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (B) South Tyneside County District and (C) North East Government Office Region are given in Table 1.

The latest available figures for (b) deaths are for the year 2006. Numbers of deaths from (i) all cancers and (ii) breast cancer, for the years 1997 to 2006 for (A) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (B) South Tyneside County District and (C) North East Government Office Region are given in Table 2.

Table 1. registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancers[1] and breast cancer[2]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district and the north east government office region, 1997-2004

	Jarrow		South Tyneside		North east	
	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]
1997	452	59	806	102	12,350	1,550
1998	441	43	838	95	12,902	1,691
1999	464	68	856	107	13,071	1,679
2000	454	60	886	119	13,087	1,673
2001	440	53	821	101	13,426	1,731
2002	469	61	860	103	13,558	1,713
2003	454	71	870	130	13,585	1,907
2004	434	58	866	117	13,213	1,974

[1] All cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer: I CD-10 COO-C97 excluding C44.
[2] Breast cancer is defined as code C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2. number of deaths where cancer[1], or breast cancer[2], was the underlying cause of death: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region, 1997-2006[3]

	Jarrow		South Tyneside		North east	
	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]	All cancers[1]	Breast[2]
1997	282	15	531	42	7776	610
1998	280	17	549	39	7901	571
1999	282	20	526	32	7530	545
2000	272	19	522	31	7469	518
2001	278	16	542	34	7811	557
2002	281	21	517	34	7695	515
2003	264	14	526	29	7650	477
2004	263	13	527	26	7629	524
2005	276	13	534	25	7648	553
2006	298	22	485	36	7667	532

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes COO-C97 for subsequent years. The introduction of ICD-10 means that the numbers of deaths from cancer before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 174-175 for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50 for subsequent years. The introduction of ICD-10 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will list all accounts directions issued by his Department between 2001-02 and 2005-06; [156004]

(2) what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial year *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156675]

Andy Burnham: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 and the Government Trading Fund Act 1973, the Treasury issues accounts directions to Departments, pensions schemes, agencies and trading funds. It also issues directions to a number of other bodies that prepare accounts under different legislation.

Details of the directions issued by the Treasury under these Acts are detailed in a Dear Accounting Officer (DAO) letter sent to all bodies, the latest such version of which is available on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Details of the Departments, pensions schemes, agencies and trading funds issued an accounts direction by the Treasury for the years 2001-02 through to 2006-07 have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Also included are details of those bodies that prepare accounts under legislation other than the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 or the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 that hold an extant direction issued by the Treasury. This list also details a few bodies that prepare their accounts under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 that were omitted from the latest DAO.

Departments: Rents

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what income *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Government receive from rental property; and if he will make a statement. [156916]

Angela Eagle: Central Government received income from rental property of £261 million in 2006-07. The Treasury received no income from rental property.

Minimum Wage: Civil Servants

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees employed by the Government and Government agencies are in receipt of no more than the minimum wage; and if he will list the titles of their posts. [158158]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally but it is estimated that for staff in the civil service and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) the total number, as at September 2007, on the minimum wage is less than 1,000.

Revenue and Customs: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* members of the armed services or their families visited the Enquiry Centre at Regent House, Darlington in each year since 2003-04; and how many of these visits were in connection with tax credits. [157444]

Jane Kennedy: The total number of callers visiting the Darlington Enquiry Centre from 2003-04 to 2006-07 including those with tax credit enquiries were:

	Callers	*Tax Credit Enquiry*
2003-04	14,120	4,927
2004-05	9,371	2,523
2005-06	10,116	2,261
2006-07	10,920	2,062

HMRC does not have the information to identify how many of those callers were members of the armed forces.

Second Homes: Highlands of Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he took into account the likely effect on demand for second homes in the Highlands in formulating his proposals to reduce the rate of capital gains tax; [158616]

(2) whether his Department has made an assessment of the factors affecting demand for second homes in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [158617]

Jane Kennedy: The Government take a range of factors into consideration when formulating tax policy, and keeps all aspects of policy under review.

VAT: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. member for North-East Bedfordshire of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2243W, on VAT: Home Information Packs, what estimate his Department has made of the total gross revenue from VAT on *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* energy performance certificates in the first full year of operation if they are introduced across the whole housing market. [157326]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimates have been made.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written statement of the Financial Secretary of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 62WS, on tax credit administration, what estimate he has made of the amount of overpaid tax credits which will be written off as a consequence of the procedural error described in the written statement. [157088]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* An estimate for the amount written off in the accounts as a result of the procedural error is not yet available. It will be included in HMRC's 2007-08 accounts which will be published next year.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 17 October 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which beneficiaries of the Aggregates Levy Sustainable Fund were based in Stroud constituency in each year since the inception of the levy. [158549]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund database captures information at county-level and has details of beneficiaries from April 2004 onwards. Beneficiaries that have run projects in Gloucestershire, since April 2004, are shown in the following list.

Gloucestershire—April 2004 onwards

Bowmoor Sailing Club
British Waterways
Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre
Cotswold Canal Trust
Cotswold Water Park Society
Cotswold AONB Partnership
Drybrook Parish council
Fairford Playing Field Ltd
Fairford Town council
Gloucester city council
Gloucestershire county council
Gloucestershire Geoconservation Trust
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Huntsmans Quarries Ltd
Kemerton Conservation Trust
MCTI Partnership
Oxford Archaeology
Pool Keynes Village Hall Committee
RSPB
Staunton Parish council
Staunton Meend Common
Stroud Valleys Project
South Gloucestershire council
Somerford Keynes Parish council
South Cerney Playgroup
The National Trust
The Jurassic Hill Geopark
University of Gloucester

Alcoholic Drinks: EU Action

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action he is taking to ensure the term cider brandy is retained and not renamed cider spirit in the draft EU regulations to replace the present EU Regulation 1576/89; and if he will make a statement. [158721]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: DEFRA is aware that the term "cider brandy" is absent from the draft of the European Union regulation on spirit drinks. We are pressing the European Commission to find a pragmatic solution to this issue.

Animal Welfare: Shipping

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many ships departing from UK ports since 1 January 2007 carrying live animals have been subject to inspection for animal welfare purposes; and what percentage of sailings this constitutes. [157789]

Jonathan Shaw: Since January 2007, two specialist livestock vessels have operated out of Dover. These vessels have also had a limited number of sailings from Sheerness and Ipswich port. Animal Health carry out welfare inspections on a percentage of all the animal transport vehicles travelling on these vessels.

Combined figures for the vessels show that, of 104 sailings, 97 included physical and documentary checks on a number of the vehicles onboard. This means that over 93 per cent. of the sailings had welfare checks carried out on their vehicles.

Cattle: Transport

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle passport applications he expects to be received late due to the postal strike; and how many cattle he estimates this will render valueless. [157275]

Jonathan Shaw: BCMS receives around 49,000 applications each week for cattle passports. Passports are produced provided there is reasonable evidence to show that farmers submitted applications in good time or were prevented from doing so by factors outside their control. These factors include known postal strikes.

If applications were not submitted in reasonable time then a passport would be refused and farmers would be unable to move the animal from their holding. 0.35 per cent. of all applications received are normally refused, subject to appeal because they are late. The figures from the last postal strike show that 0.45 per cent. of applications were initially refused. Three quarters of these appealed against the decision and were successful because of the postal strike delays. This compares with 55 per cent. of such appeals during a similar period the previous year.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156622]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury issues accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 Department has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies;

2005-06

British Potato Council
British Waterways Board
Consumer Council For Water
Covent Garden Market Authority
English Nature
Environment Agency
Food From Britain
Gangmasters Licensing Authority
Home Grown Cereals Authority
Horticultural Development Council
Meat and Livestock Commission
Milk Development Council
Royal Botanical Gardens Kew

2006-07

British Potato Council
British Waterways Board
Countryside Agency
Commission For Rural Communities
Covent Garden Market Authority
English Nature
Food From Britain
Gangmasters Licensing Authority
Home Grown Cereals Authority
Horticultural Development Council
Meat and Livestock Commission
Milk Development Council
Natural England
Royal Botanical Gardens Kew

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to implement the recommendations of the review, Flooding Lessons Learned, chaired by Sir Michael Pitt. [158753]

Mr. Woolas: The Government await the findings of the Flooding Lessons Learned review and will respond as positively as possible to the recommendations.

Food: Procurement

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he intends to assess the effectiveness of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative in respect of small and local meat producers. [157329]

Jonathan Shaw: Earlier this year, DEFRA commissioned Ipsos MORI to gauge awareness of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) in schools and local authorities. The survey included questions on the proportion of tenders from small and local producers, including meat producers. The results were positive with:

three in five schools (59 per cent.) and four in five local authorities stating that they encourage tenders from small and local producers;

almost seven in 10 local authorities (69 per cent.) stating that at least half the food supplied to schools in their area is from small and local producers;

half of the schools (53 per cent.) stating that at least half of their food is supplied by small and local producers while one in ten schools (9 per cent.) say that all their food is supplied from these producers.

The report also found that in 52 per cent. of the local authorities and 44 per cent. of schools the proportion of food supplied by small and local producers during the last two to three years had increased.

A copy of the Ipsos MORI survey is on the PSFPI website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/school-food.htm. It was conducted during the period March to July 2007 and covered 81 local authorities and 255 schools.

Recent research by the Meat and Livestock Commission, based on estimates provided by 126 English local authorities, suggests that 39 per cent. of their meat by volume was locally sourced. The figure may exaggerate the amount of locally farmed meat supplied as not all local authorities seek provenance.

In addition to the research mentioned above, DEFRA is currently collating data from across central Government to determine the proportion of publicly procured food that is British. We aim to publish the information before the end of this month.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Compensation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what compensation will be made available to *(a)* auction marts which suffered closure owing to foot and mouth measures and *(b)* farmers who were unable to enter their stock for sale in such auction marts. [R] [157080]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans to compensate auction markets who suffered closure owing to foot and mouth measures, or farmers who were unable to enter their stock for sale in such auction markets.

Under the Animal Health Act 1981, compensation is paid for animals that are compulsorily slaughtered to prevent the spread of disease. For foot and mouth disease (FMD), the Act requires that compensation is paid at the full market value before the animal became infected. This is determined by an approved valuer at the time of slaughter. Compensation is also paid for other items, such as farm equipment and feed, where these are seized because they are considered to be contaminated; this includes such things as milk. However, it is a long established principle that the Government do not meet the costs of consequential losses, which must be borne by the industry. Government seek to minimise the risk of market impacts, particularly by encouraging public understanding of the issues.

We are taking a risk-based and staged approach to easing movement restrictions when the evidence indicates that it is appropriate to do so. This is the best way to facilitate the return to normal working for the industry. We are working in partnership with the industry, but eradication of foot and mouth disease remains our priority.

National Fallen Stock Collection and Disposal Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make support for the increased costs of collection available to those farmers with fallen stock in low risk areas which are now dependent upon using the National Fallen Stock Company for collection. [158161]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) announced on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 39, that DEFRA would provide £1 million to raise the level of subsidy for the National Fallen Stock scheme for farmers in the foot and mouth (FMD) risk area from 10 per cent. to 100 per cent. This is targeted to help the livestock farmers that have been worst affected financially from restrictions imposed as a result of FMD and this will be available to all livestock keepers in the FMD risk area.

The National Fallen Stock scheme will continue as normal in the rest of the UK and for non-susceptible livestock in the risk area, subject to FMD licensing controls. There are no plans for any extra support to be introduced.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff were employed by the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* Equal Opportunities Commission prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157110]

Barbara Follett: No staff were made redundant from any of the legacy commissions. However the three commissions ran voluntary severance schemes and the following numbers left the commissions: CRE had 78 leavers, DRC had 68 leavers and EOC had 39 leavers.

SCOTLAND

Youth Citizenship Commission

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when the Government expect to launch the Youth Citizenship Commission, as announced in the Green Paper: The Governance of Britain; and what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the involvement of young people from Scotland in the initiative. [156388]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Citizenship Commission will report to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Justice. It will be launched this autumn. There have been discussions at official level between the Secretariat for the Commission and the Scottish Executive.

WALES

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158582]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office complies with Cabinet Office guidelines for the maximum time for responding to correspondence.

The Wales Office publishes correspondence statistics in its annual report and to the Cabinet Office for their annual report to Parliament.

The latest figures for April 2006 to March 2007 were 93 per cent. of correspondence answered within 15 days of receipt.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158326]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office publishes staffing figures within the Departmental Annual Report. The 2007 Report (CM7110) provides data on staff including staff numbers, permanent and temporary staff. A copy of the report can be obtained from the Library of the House or it can be viewed on our website:

http://www.walesoffice.gov.uk/2007/AnnualReport2007.pdf.

The Wales Office has not employed any contractors in the last five years.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158906]

Mr. Hain: Wales Office records are kept in financial year.

£12,265 was spent on hospitality in financial year 2006-07.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159285]

Mr. Hain: I was delighted to be re-appointed Secretary of State for Wales. I have pressed forward the same policies of deepening devolution in Wales, particularly under the framework set by the Government of Wales Act 2006, and championing Welsh interests.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs of those preparations were. [156994]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W, by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband).

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157881]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office operates 15 websites. On 1 January 2005 the Department operated 11 websites. The estimated annual cost of running the Department's websites in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table.

	Estimated cost (£)
2002-03	28,355
2003-04	34,331
2004-05	30,374
2005-06	56,103
2006-07	39,837

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157882]

Paul Goggins: The most popular website run by the Northern Ireland Office is www.nio.gov.uk; it received 8,767,572 hits between 1 January 2007 and 31 August 2007.

The website used least was www.howsecureismyhome.com; it received 5,909 hits over this same period.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157880]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office currently has no staff seconded from outside Government.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker' Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will make a statement on steps being taken by the Electoral Commission to investigate the permissibility of the donation by Mr. Michael Brown to the Liberal Democrats. [158697]

Peter Viggers: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 748W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: EU Grants and Loans

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the BBC received in the form of *(a)* loans, *(b)* direct payments and *(c)* indirect payments from EU institutions in each of the last five years. [158605]

James Purnell: This is a matter for the BBC. The BBC Group finance director will consider the question raised by the hon. Member and write to him direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157890]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is as follows:

Visitor statistics 1 January to 31 August 2007

The following statistics refer to 'unique visitors' rather than 'hits' which is accepted as a more useful indicator of the popularity of sites.

The most popular site was the main website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/

Month	*Number*
January	141,954
February	162,029
March	155,449
April	140,659
May	107,151
June	110,018
July	100,454
August	87,734

The least popular was 'Where We Live' at:

http://www.wherewelive.org.uk/

Month	Number
January	520
February	520
March	478
April	415
May	585
June	479
July	396
August	426

Digital Broadcasting: Whitehaven

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of those eligible have applied for assistance with digital switchover in Whitehaven. [158568]

James Purnell: As of 15 October 2007, 33 per cent. of those identified as being eligible for assistance from the digital switchover help scheme in the Whitehaven area had contacted the help scheme administrator. 25 per cent. of those eligible for assistance opted to receive help; 8 per cent. of those eligible for assistance chose to opt-out of the scheme.

Internet: Copyright

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretaries of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the implementation of recommendation 39 of the Gowers Review, on internet service providers' responsibility for copyright theft. [158203]

Margaret Hodge: As Minister with responsibility for the creative industries, I have had discussions with my hon. Friend the Minister for Intellectual Property and Quality at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Competitiveness at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in relation to progress on the implementation of a range of recommendations from the Gowers review, including recommendation 39.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean dated 20 April and 18 July regarding the Waterways Museum in Gloucester. [158040]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member's letters on 16 October. I apologise for the completely unacceptable delay in responding to this correspondence. I am taking steps to ensure that officials respond efficiently to correspondence we receive.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many television licences have been issued to addresses in *(a)* Argyll and Bute constituency, *(b)* the STV Central region and *(c)* the STV North region. [158718]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The BBC has responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and the maintenance of television licence records. I understand from the BBC, however, that they are not able to provide a breakdown by constituency or TV region of the number of TV licences issued, as there is no operational need for the BBC to hold the information in this way. The information is recorded at individual address level and aggregated to national level for reporting purposes.

Visit Scotland

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the locations are of the overseas offices of *(a)* VisitScotland and *(b)* VisitWales. [157303]

Margaret Hodge: Neither VisitScotland nor VisitWales operates overseas offices.

However, under an agreement made between DCMS and the Scottish Executive in March 2005, VisitScotland carries out overseas marketing through VisitBritain's offices in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Eire.

VisitWales has two members of staff working in VisitBritain's New York office. These are the only representatives from VisitWales located overseas.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* VisitScotland and *(b)* VisitWales in each of the last five years. [157304]

Margaret Hodge: VisitScotland and VisitWales are fully funded by the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly respectively. Neither receives any funding from DCMS.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of families who have access to affordable childcare places in England, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency. [157729]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested.

Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, June 2007", which is available on their website,

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

Children: Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Secretary of State has the lead role in delivering the 2010 child poverty target; and if he will make a statement. [157600]

Beverley Hughes: As stated in 'PSA Delivery Agreement 9: Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020',

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions will be responsible for child poverty, and in addition the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the lead Minister for this PSA."

I refer the hon. Member to the reply of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 92W.

Foster Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will introduce a compulsory registration scheme for private fostering. [158256]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Government have agreed that at a suitable point we will publish a report on the impact of the enhanced notification scheme introduced by the Children Act 2004, and it is on that basis that we will announce whether or not we are minded to move towards a registration scheme.

Parents: Disadvantaged

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support his Department provides to parents in areas with high levels of gang and gun-related crime to help ensure that children do not become involved in criminal activity. [154095]

Beverley Hughes: We are providing extra funding this year to areas where gun, knife and gang crime is most prevalent to accelerate the roll-out of extended schools. Parenting support is an important part of the extended schools core offer of services. There are currently over 7,000 schools providing access to the core offer of services and by 2010 all schools will be offering these services.

In addition, DCSF is leading a number of wider activities that will provide parents with support to help them steer their children away from trouble. These include launching the £34 million Parent Know How programme; establishing the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners; investing £4 million to employ Respect parenting practitioners, targeted at helping parents whose children are most at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour; we have established a national network of 53 Family Intervention Projects supporting families facing the most problems; and we have set up, in 18 local authorities, Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinders for parents of younger children who are at risk of negative outcomes.

Play: Facilities

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of publicly run play areas for children available in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [154787]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally. We recognise fully the benefits of play for children and we continue to take steps to support and promote the provision of opportunities for play. For example, between 2008-09 and 2010-11, we are providing over £1.1 billion for schools so that every school will be offering access to extended services by 2010. Through this, children and families will be able to access breakfast and after-school clubs, a range of activities and community services, with areas for play an important element of the provision.

In addition, the Government are supporting improvements to the quality of parks and green spaces in all our towns and cities, especially the most deprived areas, so that everyone has access to good quality spaces close to where they live. The quality of parks and green spaces is being driven up by the Government-supported Green Flag Award Scheme; knowledge, capacity and skills within local authorities have been enhanced through the How To programme and the work of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, and many communities have improved their local spaces through support Groundwork, the Living Spaces programme and the Liveability Fund.

Video Games: Violence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what process is to be followed by the online review into the effect of violent video games; [158561]

(2) which groups and organisations have been approached to take part in the review into the effect of violent video games; [158562]

(3) when he expects the review into the effect of violent video games will be complete; and when the results will be published; [158563]

(4) whether there are any other data collection methods the review into violent video games will use other than the online questionnaire. [158564]

Beverley Hughes: The review being carried out by Dr. Tanya Byron will consider the evidence on the risks to children and young people from inappropriate or harmful content in video games and the internet and assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to protect them and support parents.

An open call for evidence was published by Dr. Byron on 9 October 2007, running until 30 November 2007. It asks respondents to respond online via the Department's website or to email or post responses to the questions posed in the call for evidence document.

A children and young people's call for evidence is due out in week commencing 22 October 2007 and will be promoted through a wide range of media platforms (including social networking sites and online debates).

In addition to considering responses to these two open calls for evidence, the Byron Review will draw upon a wide range of existing evidence, including published commentary and research literature, and will undertake some further research in areas where gaps in the literature have been identified.

Since the review was announced on 8 September 2007, the review has met with groups, organisations and individuals representing parents; children and young people; those involved in the welfare, education and safety of children; the academic and research community; the video gaming industry; gamers; the internet industry (including producers, content aggregators, web hosts, internet service providers, search and navigation providers, consumer device manufacturers and retailers); advertising and retail bodies; government agencies; other statutory and non-statutory public bodies and third sector organisations. Dr. Byron and her team will continue to meet with key stakeholders throughout the period of the review, and they welcome input from any interested person or organisation.

The final report (due to be published in March 2008) will make recommendations to the Secretaries of State for Children's Schools and Families and Culture Media and Sport. This will include a list of individuals and groups that have contributed to the Review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Alisher Usmanov

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish reports received from British embassies relating to Alisher Usmanov. [158765]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Such information would constitute personal data. A request for personal information brings into play the relevant legislative provisions on data release by the Government and would require the consent of the individual concerned.

Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers from his Department attended the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition in September. [158779]

Dr. Howells: I can confirm to my hon. Friend that no Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers attended the Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi) event in September to which he refers.

However, the FCO did jointly sponsor a seminar at the DSEi event with the Defence Manufacturers Association. The seminar aimed to raise awareness and build support for an International Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) among the defence and military equipment industry. John Duncan, UK ambassador for Multilateral and Disarmament Affairs in Geneva, gave a speech about the UK's approach to an ATT and responded to questions on the subject.

Departments: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151664]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The recorded expenditure for agency staff for each financial year since 1997 is as follows:

	£
1997-98	451,207
1998-99	799,523
1999-2000	971,657
2000-01	1,584,850
2001-02	2,434,202
2002-03	3,230,264
2003-04	2,357,123
2004-05	1,110,154
2005-06	2,298,906
2006-07	3,344,461

Expenditure in respect of temporary and permanent agency staff is not recorded separately. The increase in expenditure in 2006-07 arose from the need to recruit temporary staff to assist Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services to move to Trading Fund status, and to enable the FCO's account to be signed off earlier than in previous years.

Gaza: Travel Restrictions

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Israeli authorities in the case of Khaled Mudallel on his return from Gaza to his business studies course at Bradford university. [158826]

Dr. Howells: We raised this issue with the Israeli embassy in London on 15 October. The embassy told us that Mr. Mudallel has been advised that he can leave Gaza via the Nitzana Border Terminal.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British residency permit holders unable to leave Gaza due to official action. [158827]

Dr. Howells: We have made no formal estimate. However, we are currently discussing the problem with our EU colleagues. We continue to raise concerns about movement and access with the Government for Israel.

Indian Sub-Continent: Entry Clearances

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa offices are operated by his Department in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* India and *(c)* Pakistan; and how many staff are employed in each of those offices to process visa applications. [158287]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas has one Visa Section in Bangladesh, located at our high commission in Dhaka. There are four Visa Sections in India, located at our high commission in New Delhi and our deputy high commissions in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. There are two Visa Sections in Pakistan, located at our high commission in Islamabad and our deputy high commission in Karachi.

The following table displays the total number of staff employed at each of these Visa Sections to process visa applications. The figures include entry clearance managers, officers, assistants, local support staff and those on short-term contracts.

Staff employed at UK Visa Sections in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan

	Number
New Delhi	100
Mumbai	84
Chennai	58
Kolkata	6
Dhaka	74
Islamabad	206
Karachi	13

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa applications were processed by his Department in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* India and *(c)* Pakistan in each (i) year and (ii) month since 2001. [158288]

Dr. Howells: The following table displays the total number of UK visa applications processed by our visa sections in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in each year and month since April 2001.

Number of UK visa applications processed by our visa sections in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Bangladesh						
2001-02	1,994	2,809	2,817	3,595	2,978	2,750
2002-03	1,914	2,473	2,477	3,309	3,419	3,712
2003-04	2,324	2,881	3,590	4,215	3,881	4,274
2004-05	3,285	3,920	5,144	4,996	4,822	4,133
2005-06	2,915	3,691	4,176	3,358	4,246	3,554
2006-07	4,011	4,500	4,195	4,297	4,530	3,633
India						
2001-02	24,462	27,376	21,688	21,702	20,281	16,659
2002-03	25,084	35,102	16,970	28,668	29,416	23,648
2003-04	27,707	33,922	29,524	28,919	26,695	28,262
2004-05	39,940	37,991	36,083	31,551	31,894	29,892
2005-06	43,767	47,499	43,090	32,142	35,028	32,787
2006-07	47,034	56,617	47,139	41,803	42,531	36,078
Pakistan						
2001-02	11,637	17,214	17,250	15,043	12,819	8,099
2002-03	4,717	9,403	473	8,091	5,959	6,113
2003-04	9,245	11,057	10,289	11,897	9,151	8,992
2004-05	17,831	24,621	29,556	19,010	17,592	12,612
2005-06	15,674	18,932	21,297	15,721	14,948	13,215
2006-07	17,047	22,538	25,726	22,611	22,332	16,346

	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
Bangladesh							
2001-02	1,772	1,959	1,545	2,247	1,451	2,086	28,003
2002-03	2,288	1,876	2,275	2,974	1,897	2,470	31,084
2003-04	3,601	2,721	2,817	2,970	2,786	3,931	39,991
2004-05	2,750	2,608	3,123	2,313	2,347	3,121	42,562
2005-06	2,844	2,274	3,091	2,580	2,786	3,905	39,420
2006-07	2,661	3,168	3,905	3,180	3,079	3,487	44,646
India							
2001-02	11,232	10,498	9,468	12,308	14,020	19,465	209,159
2002-03	17,760	12,297	12,938	16,369	14,228	19,270	251,750
2003-04	21,093	15,205	17,918	19,061	21,849	33,080	303,235
2004-05	20,396	17,660	19,884	18,606	24,559	37,123	345,579
2005-06	24,231	21,703	20,205	24,314	28,131	42,478	395,375
2006-07	26,812	25,836	22,887	28,201	30,300	48,761	453,999

	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
Pakistan							
2001-02	3,113	2,676	2,045	5,235	6,151	7,901	109,183
2002-03	7,762	5,837	6,487	7,526	5,120	6,312	73,800
2003-04	8,781	7,407	10,611	11,733	10,442	15,281	124,886
2004-05	9,787	9,692	12,250	9,251	12,691	15,838	190,731
2005-06	9,395	10,741	13,164	11,586	11,499	16,212	172,384
2006-07	12,035	15,623	16,792	13,005	13,645	16,328	214,028

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visas have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* refused by his Department in (i) Bangladesh, (ii) India and (iii) Pakistan since 2001. [158289]

Dr. Howells: The following table displays the total number of UK visa applications issued and refused by our visa sections in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan since 2001.

	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Issued	Refused	Issued	Refused	Issued	Refused	Issued	Refused	Issued	Refused
Chennai	40,646	3,460	46,193	8,653	55,944	12,526	68,675	13,712	81,526	13,659
Kolkata	9,907	199	10,776	329	11,813	880	13,155	1,101	14,923	979
Mumbai	66,108	7,960	71,776	10,907	91,070	20,216	109,845	25,728	119,130	28,953
New Delhi	64,343	12,517	67,948	19,753	81,479	25,013	88,862	32,363	100,893	33,079
India	181,004	24,136	196,693	39,642	240,306	58,635	280,537	72,904	316,472	76,670
Dhaka	19,896	7,671	21,504	10,658	21,748	11,914	20,837	19,153	27,554	16,543
Bangladesh	19,896	7,671	21,504	10,658	21,748	11,914	20,837	19,153	27,554	16,543
Islamabad	56,182	24,420	42,844	7,670	92,189	21,768	91,446	76,640	89,821	61,044
Lahore[1]	8,289	2,549	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karachi	28,634	7,904	9,788	2,503	1,793	7	11,505	5,003	20,665	7,568
Pakistan	93,105	34,873	52,632	10,173	93,982	21,775	102,951	81,643	110,486	68,612

[1] The visa section at the British Trade Office in Lahore closed in 2002.

Source:

UK Visas Published Entry Clearance Statistics from 2001-02 to 2005-06

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what targets are set for the processing of visa applications by consular staff in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* India and *(c)* Pakistan. [158290]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas does not set targets for its staff to process visa applications. Instead, UKvisas measures performance at all of its missions abroad against the following public service agreement (PSA) standards.

PSA 1: 90 per cent. of straightforward non-settlement applications to be processed within 24-hours.

PSA 2: 90 per cent. of non-settlement applications requiring further enquiries or interview to be processed within 15 days.

PSA 3: 90 per cent of settlement applications to be processed within 12 weeks.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the persecution of the Baha'i community, with particular reference to young Baha'i people being allowed to attend university; and if he will make a statement. [158551]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned about the treatment of religious minorities in Iran. The Baha'i faith is not formally recognised under the Iranian Constitution and as a result Baha'is routinely face persecution and discrimination. In recent years Baha'is have been subject to arbitrary arrests, confiscation of property and restrictions on employment. Denial of access to higher education has been a long-term problem for Baha'i students.

After the religious identifier was removed from the national university entrance examination in 2006, a number of Baha'i students sat the exam for last academic year (2006-07). Over 250 Baha'i students were admitted to campuses across Iran, but 120 were expelled throughout the year as the universities discovered their religion. This year, students applying to study at technical and vocational institutes were required to complete a form stating their religion. The options did not include the Baha'i religion, so Baha'i students were once again effectively excluded from applying to these institutions. We do not yet know the situation facing Baha'i university students this academic year, but we remain concerned that more Baha'is may be prevented from applying to university or expelled in the future.

We continue to monitor the situation and raise concerns about the treatment of the Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, bilaterally and through the EU.

The EU presidency raised specific concerns about the issue of Baha'i access to higher education in meetings with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 September and 10 October.

Iraq: Overseas Workers

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many UK citizens were employed by non-UK-based private contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters in each of the last five years; [158257]

(2) how many UK citizens were employed by non UK-based private security contractors in Iraq in each of the last five years; [158258]

(3) how many UK citizens were employed by UK-based private contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters in each of the last five years. [158261]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the information requested by the hon. Member.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many UK citizens working for UK-based private security contractors in Iraq were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158259]

(2) how many UK citizens working for non UK-based private security contractors in Iraq were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158260]

(3) how many people employed by UK-based security contractors in Iraq were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158264]

(4) how many people employed by UK-based contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158265]

(5) how many UK citizens working for non UK-based contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years; [158266]

(6) how many UK citizens working for UK-based contractors in Iraq not concerned with security matters were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years. [158267]

Dr. Howells: Our consular records show that at least 72 British civilians have died in Iraq since March 2003.

2003—6
2004—23
2005—12
2006—22
2007—9

This number includes deaths from natural causes but is not a definitive figure as records include only those cases where consular assistance has been sought. The figure does not include British dual nationals or unrepresented foreign nationals.

We also have records of 78 British civilians who have been injured in Iraq over the same period.

2003—7
2004—30
2005—15
2006—1
2007—15

We do not collect data in a form which would enable us to distinguish between private security companies or other contractors nor the country of origin of those employers. Consular officials do not have accurate figures on non-British nationals in the above categories.

Iraq: Resettlement

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-8WS, on Iraq: assistance to locally employed staff, what his estimate is of the number of Iraqi nationals who *(a)* work and *(b)* have worked in Iraq as (i) direct employees of the UK armed forces or the Ministry of Defence, (ii) on letters of appointment from HM embassy Baghdad or the British embassy offices in Basra and the Kurdistan region and (iii) as direct employees of the Department for International Development or the British Council. [157993]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: About 500 locally engaged staff currently work in Iraq as direct employees of the UK armed forces or the Ministry of Defence and a further 43 work on letters of appointment from our embassy in Baghdad and our embassy Offices in Basra or Erbil, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the British Council.

About 20,000 have worked for the UK armed forces or the Ministry of Defence and a further 140 have worked on letters of appointment from our embassy in Baghdad, our embassy Offices in Basra or Erbil, DFID and the British Council.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made towards a peace settlement in the Middle East. [158658]

Dr. Howells: In the run up to the November international meeting I believe that a window of opportunity now exists with: a continuing Israeli Prime Minister Olmert/Palestinian President Abbas dialogue; the right hon. Tony Blair's engagement; and a rejuvenated Arab Peace Initiative. We will continue to work with international partners to develop these proposals and move us closer to a two-state solution.

We would like to see at the US-hosted November meeting, an agreement that puts the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008 leading to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security.

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the signing of human rights agreements by Saudi Arabia on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia; and if he will make a statement. [158029]

Dr. Howells: Saudi Arabia is party to the following international instruments:

Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Convention on the Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

Convention against torture; and

International convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Saudi Arabia's human rights record is poor but improving. Complete implementation of these instruments continues to be a challenge. It is the role of the UN treaty monitoring bodies to assess how well a country is fulfilling its obligations under a treaty. The Government continue to work both bilaterally and with EU partners to encourage Saudi Arabia to fulfil its obligations and report on time.

From April 2008 the UN Human Rights Council will be implementing periodic reviews on all the human rights records of all Member States.

Ukraine: Work Permits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average price was of a UK work visa from Ukraine in each year since 2003. [157937]

Dr. Howells: The current fee for a Work Permit Holder visa application at our Visa Section in Kiev is £200. From 1 July 2005 to 31 March 2007, the fee for a Work Permit Holder visa was £85. Prior to this, Work Permit Holders paid the long-term non-settlement fee of £75.

TRANSPORT

A358

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1109W, on the A358, what discussions she has had with the *(a)* Highways Agency and *(b)* Regional Fire Control Centre at Blackbrook on the proposed scheme to link the A358 and M5 at Blackbrook in Taunton constituency; and what the outcome of those discussions was. [158625]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Highways Agency had a constructive meeting with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and their consultants on 31 August 2007 to discuss the impact of the A303/A358 South Petherton to M5 Taunton Improvement scheme on the Fire Control Centre at Blackbrook.

It was agreed that both parties should work together to resolve any issues. The Highways Agency have sent further information to DCLG to allow their consultants to update the risk assessment of the site.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1109W, on the A358, if she will take steps to make the Highways Agency report into alternative schemes to link the A358 and M5 at Blackbrook in Taunton constituency available to local residents; if she will undertake a further public consultation on the alternative schemes; and if she will place a copy of the report in the Library. [158626]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In response to public feedback received during consultation, the Highways Agency is currently considering two alternative options to connect the M5 northbound and the A358 eastbound (Blackbrook loop). The outcome of this additional work will be included in an addendum to the public consultation report, which would be published in due course.

Should it be considered necessary to amend the proposed scheme as a result of this further work then it is likely that further limited consultation would be undertaken.

When the report is published it will be posted on the Highways Agency's website and be deposited in the local area for the public to view.

Airports: Passengers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers passed through *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick airports between April and September 2007; and if she will make a statement. [159355]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of terminal passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick airport in each month between April and September 2007.

Terminal passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick, April-September 2007

	Heathrow	Thousand Gatwick
April	5,667	2,722
May	5,611	3,012
June	6,014	3,359
July	6,419	3,787
August[1]	6,378	3,969
September[1]	6,022	3,550
Total	36,111	20,400

[1] August and September figures are provisional.

Source:
CAA airport statistics.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much has been allocated to Chorley borough council to fund the free local concessionary bus travel scheme in 2007-08; [158729]

(2) what increase in the rate support grant Chorley borough council will receive to fund free national off-peak travel for pensioners and disabled people for 2008-09. [158730]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From April 2006, older and disabled people have been guaranteed free off-peak local bus travel within their local authority area. The existing funding for statutory concessionary fares is supported through Formula Grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed Business Rates and Principal Formula Police Grant.

Formula Grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend the money on any service. Because of this and the method of calculation, particularly floor damping (which guarantees local authorities at least a minimum percentage increase by scaling back increases for other authorities), it is not possible to say how much of the total Formula Grant funding is for any particular service.

Local authorities have the discretion to offer (and fund from their own resources) enhancements to the statutory minimum, such as peak bus travel and/or concessions on other modes.

The £212 million of extra funding to English authorities for the national bus concession from April 2008 will be distributed by a non-ringfenced special grant via a formula. The Department has recently published a consultation paper on the formula basis for distribution of the special grant. This new consultation supersedes the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on the formula grant options for concessionary fares. Local authorities have been asked to respond to the special grant consultation by 23 November.

In addition, we have announced that we will be providing local authorities with approximately £30 million for the issuing of the national pass; it is likely that Chorley borough council will receive around £69,000 of this additional funding.

Cars: Hire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* traffic offences occurred involving hire cars in Peterborough constituency in each of the last five years. [158962]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Crossrail Line

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether a financing agreement is in place for the Crossrail project. [158495]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the White Paper for the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 9 October 2007.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place a copy in the Library of the financial agreement on Crossrail. [158492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Subject to commercial confidentiality, the Secretary of State expects to place relevant agreements in the Library in due course.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contingency preparations her Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [156993]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

Motorcycles: Accidents

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents there have been involving *(a)* motorcyclists, *(b)* bicycles and *(c)* only motorcyclists and bicyclists in each year since 1997. [158672]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least *(a)* one motorcyclist, *(b)* one pedal cyclist and *(c)* no other vehicles or pedestrians but at least one motorcyclist and at least one pedal cyclist, in each year since 1997 is shown in the table—note that *(c)* is included in both *(a)* and *(b)*.

	Number of accidents involving at least one:		
	Motorcycle	*Pedal cycle*	*Motorcycle and pedal cycle only*
1997	24,928	24,705	5,850
1998	23,188	24,969	5,649
1999	23,221	26,537	5,945
2000	20,866	28,635	6,051
2001	19,316	29,398	6,067
2002	17,373	28,825	5,691
2003	17,300	28,721	5,931
2004	16,922	26,151	5,526
2005	16,856	25,204	4,799
2006	16,440	23,730	4,734

Railways: Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the extra rail carriages announced by her Department in the five-year plan published on 24 July have been introduced; and on which lines. [156923]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The extra rail carriages are to be introduced in stages between 2009 and 2014.

Roads: Accidents

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents in each of the last five years involved children; and if she will make a statement. [159262]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one child casualty (aged 0 to 15) for each of the last five years is:

	Number
2002	30,430
2003	28,264
2004	27,253
2005	24,837
2006	22,676

In 2000, the Government set a PSA target to achieve a 50 per cent. reduction in the number of children aged 0 to 15 killed or seriously injured by 2010, compared with the average for 1994-98. 3,294 children were killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in 2006, which is 52 per cent. below the 1994-98 average of 6,860. In February 2007 we issued a new child road safety strategy, which sets out further measures to improve child road safety.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many liability orders the Child Support Agency has applied for in each month since January 2003; how many of these were inaccurate in any particular; and how many were *(a)* withdrawn and *(b)* dismissed. [146178]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many liability orders the Child Support Agency has applied for in each month since January 2003; how many of these were inaccurate in any particular; and how many were (a) withdrawn and (b) dismissed. (146178)

Such information as is available is set out in the attached table. The Agency holds information on; the number of liability orders it has applied for, the numbers subsequently granted as well as information on the numbers of applications withdrawn by the Agency pre and post hearing and the numbers of cases dismissed by the Courts. This information is recorded and validated on a yearly basis only. The Agency currently does not hold management information on the accuracy of individual elements of child maintenance cases such as the liability order process.

Information on a range of enforcement actions is routinely published in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). A copy of this is available in the House of Commons Library and is also available on the Internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_jun07.asp

The Agency seeks liability orders in cases where the non-resident parent is failing to meet their responsibilities to maintain their children. In many cases, as the non-resident parent may not have co-operated fully in the assessment and calculation of their maintenance liability, the Agency will proceed on the basis of the information available. As the Agency will continue to correspond with the non-resident parent throughout the time taken for a liability order to be granted, the non-resident parent can at any time supply information which may lead to a review of the maintenance assessment, or indeed make payments to comply with the maintenance liability. In addition, in some cases the parent with care can request that any maintenance owed directly to them not be recovered, the Agency will then consider withdrawing the liability order application prior to the court hearing.

Once a liability order is being actively considered by the Court, the non-resident parent can make representations for the Court to dismiss the liability order. The Courts currently dismiss less than one per cent of applications. The Agency believes that this is a good indication of the robustness of the checking regime currently in place. Finally, once a liability order has been awarded, the non-resident parent can again bring forward additional information, or indeed settle their arrears and the Agency may again consider whether it is appropriate to proceed with the application.

It should therefore be noted that there are many reasons that the Agency may withdraw a liability order application, however the Agency currently does not record individual reasons an application may be withdrawn. The most relevant measure of the accuracy of the Agency's process is therefore the low numbers of cases dismissed by the Courts, following representations from the non-resident parent.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

	Applied for	*Withdrawn pre-hearing*	*Dismissed*	*Granted*	*Withdrawn post-hearing*
2002-03	5,540	202	69	2,383	—
2003-04	6,719	285	71	3,885	—
2004-05	10,483	467	16	7,760	199
2005-06	11,926	882	49	*11,245	262
2006-07	15,309	1,212	50	*13,335	232

Notes:
1. A liability order is a document obtained from the court showing that they legally recognise the debt. This is the same in both England and Wales, and Scotland and is required before the Agency can use litigation powers (Diligence in Scotland).
2. The figures marked with an asterix* are sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics. All other figures have been clerically collated and are actual figures, not subject to rounding.
3. Figures sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics are rounded to the nearest five.
4. Robust information on the numbers of liability order withdrawn post-hearing is unavailable prior to April 2004.
5. Due to differences in the Scottish legal system, cases classified by the Agency as withdrawn pre-hearing are classified by the courts as dismissed.
6. It should be noted that for any period, the number of liability orders applied for will not directly relate to the number of applications granted as the process can take many weeks to complete. Liability orders applied for in one period may not be granted until the following period.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value is of the contracts the Child Support Agency (CSA) has with external debt collectors; how much has been paid to date under such contracts; with which debt collectors the CSA has contracts; how many cases they are handling; what the average debt outstanding on transfer to the external debt collectors is; how many cases they have successfully recovered outstanding debt from *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part; and what average sum has been recovered. [155937]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the total value is of the contracts the Child Support Agency (CSA) has with external debt collectors; how much has been paid to date under such contracts; with which debt collectors the CSA has contracts; how many cases they are handling; what the average debt outstanding on transfer to the external debt collectors is; how many cases they have successfully recovered outstanding debt from (a) in full and (b) in part; and what average sum has been recovered. [155937]

The Agency has a current contract with two debt collection agencies, Eversheds LLP and iQor. The contract with both of these debt collection agencies has been let on a commission basis and the final value of the contract will be dependent on the amount of debt collected by them. Up to 31 August 2007, the Agency has paid over £360,000 to the debt collection agencies under this contract.

As at 31 August 2007, the Agency has referred over 59,000 cases to the debt collection agencies with an average debt value of £5,250. Of these, the agencies have collected debt in over 12,000 cases, from which 2,003 non-resident parents have paid their child support maintenance debt in full, with the average collection being £444.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely impact of proposed reductions in staffing of the Child Support Agency (CSA) on the effectiveness of the CSA and its successor the Child Maintenance and Support Commission. [155614]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Agency is committed to meeting both the departmentally agreed headcount target of 9,547 by March 2008 and the Secretary of State performance targets for the coming year. Computer system improvements as part of the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan will ensure client service in both CSA, and later C-MEC, will not be affected by this reduction in headcount.

Child Support Agency: Standards

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Belfast unit of the Child Support Agency over the last *(a)* six months and *(b)* year in handling claims involving children from Northamptonshire. [154969]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Belfast unit of the Child Support Agency over the last (a) six months and (b) year in handling claims involving children from Northamptonshire. [154969]

Such information as is available for Northamptonshire cases is set out in tables S1a to S4b of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). Unfortunately, these tables have recently been added and only give information back to December 2006. These tables show that at end of June 2007 the compliance rate for the Nottinghamshire area is 67%, slightly above that of the national average of 66%. The Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics is available in the House of Commons Library or on the Internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_jun07.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of HM Revenue and Customs gross income data which will be *(a)* less than one year out of date, *(b)* more than one year out of date and *(c)* more than two years out of date when calculating child maintenance under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [154619]

Mr. Plaskitt: Under the proposed scheme, non-resident parents' maintenance liabilities will be based on their gross income for the latest tax year available from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs at the time that a case is opened or is subject to an annual review.

With the increased focus on parents agreeing to voluntary arrangements and the ending of the requirement that parents with care on benefit be treated as applying for child maintenance, not all of the current Child Support Agency case load will choose to use the statutory maintenance service. Since we do not know the precise composition of the resulting case load, no estimates have been made on the proportion of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs gross income data which will be *(a)* less than one year out of date, *(b)* more than one year out of date and *(c)* more than two years out of date when calculating child maintenance under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Department is taking to enable the recovery of historical debt of non-resident parents by the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [156491]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* We want to take firm action at the earliest opportunity against non-resident parents who do not fulfil their responsibility to pay maintenance.

The Child Support Agency has already begun to improve the recovery of debt as part of the Operational Improvement Plan and is committed to recovering over £200 million historic debt by 2009.

The Commission will build on the current Child Support Agency debt strategy and the success of the Operational Improvement Plan. Through the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill we intend to strengthen the range of enforcement and debt management powers that will be at the disposal of the

Commission. The Bill proposes new and streamlined enforcement provisions such as administrative liability orders, disqualification from holding or obtaining a travel authorisation, collection of maintenance directly from accounts held by financial institutions, enforcing the surrender of a non-resident parent's passport and imposing a curfew.

New debt management powers, such as the ability to accept part payment of arrears in full and final settlement, will, where appropriate, take account of the wishes of the parent with care. These powers will help the Commission manage debt, including interim maintenance assessment debt. The new debt management and enforcement measures will be used both to encourage ongoing compliance to prevent the new debt building up, and to enable more of the accumulated debt to be recovered.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children he estimates will be taken out of poverty when the new £40 disregard for child maintenance is introduced. [158797]

Caroline Flint: We estimate that around 50,000 children will be lifted out of poverty by increasing the child maintenance disregard to £40 a week from April 2010.

Commission for Equality and Human Rights: Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on staffing levels at the Commission for Equality and Human Rights; and if he will make a statement. [157817]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Equality and Human Rights Commission currently plans to employ approximately 500 staff. There is no intention to make a statement.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155875]

Mrs. McGuire: The details of consultancy engagements and related costs by all projects across the Department for Work and Pensions and all its agencies over the last three years are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. A particular exercise to obtain this information for the 12 projects with the largest engagement with consultancy firms over the last three years has been conducted and the results are shown in the following table.

Consultancy firm	*Project title*	*Approximate value (£ million)*
IBM	Finance Transformation Programme	63
Booz Allen Hamilton	Pensions Transformation Programme	55
Capgemini	Programme and Systems Delivery Transformation	26
PA Consulting	Payment Modernisation Programme	25
Capgemini	HR Modernisation	17
Capgemini	DCS Change Programme	16
Capgemini	DWP Change Programme	7
Deloitte	PSD Transformation Support—network services integration	7
Deloitte	PSD Transformation Support—network services integration	6
Atos Origin	Finance Transformation/Procurement Modernisation	6
PA Consulting	JCP and DCS Integrated Delivery	6
Deloitte	Central Payment System Programme	5

Departments: Dismissal

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many departmental staff have been dismissed for gross misconduct in each of the last five years. [157175]

Mrs. McGuire: The information on the number of people dismissed for gross misconduct for the period July 2003 to March 2007 is shown in the following table.

No information is available for the period before July 2003.

Information for the period from April 2007 to March 2008 is not available.

Number of employees dismissed in Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for gross misconduct

	Number of employees
July 2003 to March 2004	53
April 2004 to March 2005	223
April 2005 to March 2006	227
April 2006 to March 2007	121

Jobcentre Plus: Doctors

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints were received about doctors contracted to Jobcentre Plus to carry out incapacity benefit assessments, in each of the last five years, broken down by local benefits agency; and if he will make a statement. [154866]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Medical services are provided to DWP under contract by Atos Healthcare. Doctors carrying out incapacity benefit (IB) assessments are engaged by Atos Healthcare not Jobcentre Plus.

Atos Healthcare only began keeping records of complaints received by local benefits office in 2004 and by Jobcentre Plus region in 2005. Information about the number of complaints received per Medical Services Centre, relating to IB is in the following table.

Number of complaints received per Medical Services Centre relating to IB

Medical Services Centre	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]	*Grand total*
Birmingham	62	71	78	88	23	27	349
Bootle	105	114	91	89	51	33	483
Bristol	54	70	47	43	29	28	271
Croydon	116	89	95	71	45	37	453
Cardiff	49	60	56	32	25	22	244
Edinburgh	36	21	31	36	9	14	147
Glasgow	98	78	67	50	27	28	348
Leeds	102	116	113	89	59	41	520
Manchester	77	61	50	37	25	15	265
Newcastle	78	82	105	63	40	25	393
Nottingham	89	56	63	60	70	50	388
Wembley	107	138	125	110	50	49	579
Customer relations team	86	35	32	37	33	20	243
Total complaints	1,059	991	953	805	486	389	4,653
Total IB examinations	522,803	507,479	461,000	485,237	499,895	358,207	2,834,621
Percentage complaints/examinations	0.20	0.19	0.21	0.17	0.10	0.11	0.16

[1] January to August

Note:
The last row of the table indicates the number of 'Official Correspondence' complaints that the Customer Relations Team received, which are not differentiated by Medical Services Centre.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many doctors contracted to Jobcentre Plus to carry out incapacity benefit assessments were removed from their role in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [154867]

(2) how many doctors contracted to Jobcentre Plus to carry out incapacity benefit assessments resigned in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [154868]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Medical services are provided to DWP under contract by Atos Healthcare. Doctors carrying out incapacity benefit (IB) assessments are engaged by Atos Healthcare not Jobcentre Plus. The available information is in the following table.

Number of doctors carrying out IB assessments who have resigned, retired or whose approval has been revoked

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Resigned	22	68	93	65	47
Retire	4	21	13	8	6
Approval revoked	10	31	15	16	7

National Insurance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the surplus is in the National Insurance Fund; what surplus he expects to be in that fund for each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [157342]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is shown in paragraph 4 and Appendix 9 of the Report by the Government Actuary on the drafts of the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2007 and the Social Security (Contributions) (Re-rating and National insurance Funds Payments) Order 2007.

National Insurance: Bexleyheath

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford in 2006-07. [153897]

Mr. Plaskitt: 2,731 national insurance numbers were issued to residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign nationals in the Shepway district were issued with national insurance numbers in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the preceding four years. [156611]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available on how many national insurance numbers were issued. The available information on the numbers of registrations for national insurance numbers is in the following table.

Number of national insurance numbers registered to foreign nationals in Shepway local authority area

Year of registration	*Number of registrations*
2004-05	410
2005-06	670
2006-07	900

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded addresses of the NINO recipient.
5. Information is not available prior to 2004-05.

Source:
100 per cent. sample at 25 June 2005, 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the National Insurance Recording System

Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the yearly value in absolute terms was of the standard basic state pension for *(a)* a pensioner couple and *(b)* a single pensioner, excluding winter fuel and over-75 payments, in each year since 1997-98. [158142]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

	Pensioner couple	*Single pensioner*
1997-98	5,189.60	3,247.40
1998-99	5,376.80	3,364.40
1999-2000	5,548.40	3,471.00
2000-01	5,610.80	3,510.00
2001-02	6,026.80	3,770.00
2002-03	6,276.40	3,926.00
2003-04	6,437.60	4,027.40
2004-05	6,617.00	4,139.20
2005-06	6,822.40	4,266.60
2006-07	7,007.00	4,381.00
2007-08	7,259.20	4,539.60

Notes:
1. The figure for each year is its cash value.
2. There are no singles or couples rates as such. The basic state pension is an individual benefit; although the Category A rate is commonly referred to as the singles rate, and the combination of the Category A and Category B rate is commonly referred to as the couples rate.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at how many of the establishments in the UK with a certificate of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 there is at least one member of the animal care staff or licensee constantly on site. [158152]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The information requested is not held by the Home Office.

Primary responsibility for animals used in regulated procedures rests with the personal licensee concerned. Under personal licence standard conditions 12 and 15 set out in Appendix E to the published Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321) the personal licensee must ensure that animals are properly monitored and cared for and that suitable arrangements exist for the care and welfare of any animals during any period when the personal licensee is not in attendance.

In addition, certificate of designation standard conditions 4 and 9 set out in Appendix B to the guidance require that establishments must be appropriately staffed at all times to ensure the well-being of the protected animals and that they must be provided with adequate care and accommodation appropriate to their type or species. Further requirements are set out in certificate of designation standard conditions 10 and 12.

In practice, professional judgment is exercised on a case-by-case basis by the personal licensee, named veterinary surgeon and named animal care and welfare officer to decide the level of care to be provided, which could involve 24-hour monitoring.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been sentenced to custody for breach of an antisocial behaviour order. [156304]

Jacqui Smith: The latest data available on sentencing for breach of an ASBO relate to 2000 to 2003. These show that of the 793 people found guilty of breach of ASBO 134 were sentenced to custody for breach of ASBO alone—in all other cases, they were convicted for other offences at the same time.

Asylum

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* principal applicants and *(b)* dependants have been admitted to the United Kingdom under the Gateway Refugee Resettlement Programme in each year since the scheme commenced. [157967]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Gateway Protection Programme became operational in the financial year 2004-05 when 64 principal applicants and 86 dependants were admitted to the UK. In 2005-06 56 principal applicants and 192 dependants were admitted and in 2006-07 139 principal applicants and 368 dependants were admitted to the UK under the Gateway resettlement programme.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quota the Government set for the maximum number of admissions under the Gateway Refugee Resettlement Programme in each year since the scheme commenced; and what quotas have been set for future years. [157968]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Since the Gateway Protection Programme commenced in 2004 the Government have set the quota at 500 refugees per financial year. The Government have not yet set the quota for future years.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to the Borders and Immigration Agency on how to handle applications for exceptional leave to remain in Britain from Iraqi nationals who have worked in Iraq for the UK armed forces or the British Government in one or more of the categories set out in the written statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-8WS, on Iraq: assistance to locally employed staff. [157969]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Foreign Secretary announced on 8 October 2007 the criteria under which current locally engaged staff who had worked for HMG in Iraq would be eligible for referral for exceptional leave to enter the UK. Officials are currently working up the guidance to be issued to the Border and Immigration Agency staff dealing with the cases.

Asylum: Parents

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases remain to be determined under the initiative announced on 24 October 2003 on the right to remain of asylum seekers with children. [158197]

Mr. Byrne: The number of cases identified for consideration up to 31 March 2007 (the last quarter for which information is available) was 61,485 of which 61,135 were determined leaving 350 cases outstanding.

BAE Systems: USA

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason her Department has not yet complied with the request for mutual legal assistance from the United States in relation to its investigation into BAE Systems; and when she expects her Department to comply with this request. [158357]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The request is receiving careful consideration. It is not appropriate to speculate on a time scale for a decision on its execution.

Border and Immigration Agency: Information Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* national and *(b)* regional press officers were employed by the Border and Immigration Agency and its predecessor, the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, in each of the last 10 years. [158700]

Mr. Byrne: Between 2000 and 2004, one Chief Immigration Officer was usually attached to the Home Office press office as part of a rolling secondment programme.

In 2004, the secondment programme was discontinued and instead IND funded until January 2007 the salary of an additional permanent Government information officer based in the Home Office press office to work on immigration issues.

Since February 2007, IND/BIA has funded the salaries of three Government information officers based in the Home Office press office.

BIA has since April 2007 funded the recruitment and appointment of five new information officers and one senior information officer to work to each of the regional directors.

Consultants: Costs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which private consultancy firms *(a)* her Department and *(b)* agencies which report to her Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155899]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes and where more cost-effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is allocated across a very wide range of firms, ranging from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organisations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU procurement regulations based on best value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants in the Home Office provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skills, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available to it. Some of the expenditure is on consultants to whom we have outsourced services, such as IT.

The information held by the Home Department on its spend on consultancy and professional legal services is as follows:

2004-05: centrally held data are not available on a like-for-like basis, owing to a change in financial recording systems in that period.

2005-06: consultancy: £137 million; legal; £21 million: total: £158 million.

2006-07: consultancy: £148 million; legal: £28 million; total: £176 million.

2007-08: during the current financial year, the Home Department is refining and improving its approach to the management of consultancy spend including a more rigorous demand management and approval process. Year to date figures indicate a reduction in spend which we are forecasting to be maintained throughout the current financial year.

The breakdown across agencies and the Department are as follows.

A breakdown of expenditure by engagement by company is not held centrally and to attempt to assemble it would incur disproportionate cost. The top 10 companies by total expenditure across the Home Office in the last three years are as follows. The

companies are listed in alphabetical order; the amount spent with each company is not shown on grounds of commercial confidentiality.

Table 1: Home Department expenditure with consultancy companies for 2005-06 and 2006-07

	Borders and Immigration Agency	*Home Office*	*Identity and Passport Service*	*Total*
2005-06				
Consultancy	54	74	9	137
Legal	17	4	0	21
Total	71	78	9	158
2006-07				
Consultancy	44	74	30	148
Legal	23	5	0	28
Total	67	79	30	176

Top 10 companies by total expenditure across the Home Office in the last three years

Cap Gemini
Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Deloitte
Drivers Jonas
Hedra BearingPoint
IBM
LogicaCMG
PA Consulting Group
Parity Resources
Siemens Business Services Ltd.

Detention Centres: Hunger Strikes

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many detainees in immigration detention centres went on hunger strike in each of the last five years; [154572]

(2) what guidance has been issued to immigration detention centres on how to deal with those on hunger strike. [154573]

Jacqui Smith: We only record detainees who have refused to eat the meals provided. The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

It is normal procedure to place a detainee on a missed meals log if they have missed four consecutive meals, not including breakfast, as this allows staff to monitor their health and welfare to ensure they receive appropriate treatment where necessary.

Detention Services Order 07-2004 was issued to immigration removal centres on how to deal with those on hunger strike. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the timetable for the UK's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking of Human Beings. [158533]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are determined to ratify the Convention as soon as we can but are determined to get the arrangements right before doing so. We need to be compliant with the Convention before formal ratification. Some of the other signatories to the Convention have legal systems that allow or require ratification before implementation—ours does not. The UK is already largely compliant with the Convention but some amendments to primary/secondary legislation will be required, as will the development of guidance and the institution of new processes. A dedicated project team within the Border and Immigration Agency is leading delivery of the changes needed to comply with the Convention and is reporting regularly to a cross-government official project board and Ministerial Group. Action against trafficking is continuing and is not on hold pending ratification. During the ongoing, police-led anti-trafficking operation, Pentameter 2 we are piloting an identification process and a 30-day reflection period, as required by Article 10 and 13 of the Convention.

Forensic Science Service

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to re-organise the Government's Forensic Service. [157533]

Meg Hillier: The Forensic Science Service was an Executive agency of the Home Office until December 2005 when it was vested as a Government-owned limited company (GovCo). In accordance with commitments given to Parliament in March 2006, I am currently considering whether there should be a further change of status, and if so, what that status should be. I hope to be in a position to make an in principle decision by the end of the year.

Immigration Officers: Airports

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to increase the number of staff on duty at immigration counters at UK airports. [158536]

Mr. Byrne: We are currently recruiting 118 additional immigration officers at UK airports.

We deploy staff based on published flight schedules and anticipated passenger loads as this is the most effective way to ensure prudent spending of public money. We do not allocate resources based on the number of desks a port operator makes available as this would lead to staff being completely unoccupied for significant periods of their working day. We take a number of measures at peak times to ensure that maximum numbers of staff are available.

This year these measures include:

The re-deployment of mobile search teams to the front-line;

The re-deployment of staff from support functions such as passenger caseworking

Legislation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criminal offences have been created by each Act sponsored by her Department since May 1997. [156309]

Jacqui Smith: In the period since 1997, the Home Office has had responsibility for a wide range of subjects, including electoral law, data protection, licensing, police, prisons, criminal law and criminal justice, as well as immigration, serious crime and terrorism, and brought forward legislation on these issues as appropriate. In some cases, the legislation created new offences; in other cases, it re-enacted, or gave statutory form to, existing offences, sometimes with modifications to their extent or scope.

A list of all criminal offences created in all Acts sponsored by the Home Office since 1997 is not held centrally, and could be produced only at disproportionate cost in time and resources.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 9 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Larry Allen. [156904]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 11 October 2007.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 6 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. M. Sultan. [156905]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 September 2007.

Police: South West Region

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government funding provision was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita for police services in (i) Devon and Cornwall and (ii) England and Wales in each year since 1979. [156359]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested where available is set out in the following table.

Information from before 1995-96 is unreliable due to the changed structures of police authorities.

We do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of socio-demographic data to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative resources of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping changes to limit year-on-year variations. Devon and Cornwall actually receives £1.9 million more than it would on a strict application of the funding formula.

Government funding provision for police services from 1995-96 to 2006-07

£ million

	Police authority	
Funding provision	*Devon and Cornwall*	*England and Wales*[1]
Government grant[2, 3]		
1995-96	122.92	5,538.60
1996-97	129.31	5,746.29
1997-98	132.97	5,861.23
1998-99	141.09	6,050.55
1999-2000	146.70	6,185.59
2000-01	152.88	4,737.60
2001-02	163.44	5,038.79
2002-03	167.49	5,173.15
2003-04	174.26	5,548.65
2004-05	180.29	5,770.08
2005-06	189.16	6,075.37
Government grant[2, 3, 4]		
2006-07	190.95	6,215.54
2007-08	199.38	6,425.25

[1] The data for Metropolitan Police Authority from 2000-01 onwards are not available as they are collected as consolidated data from GLA.

[2] Revenue funding includes all grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.

[3] Welsh Government Grant includes Home Office Police Grant, floor funding and additional support provided to ensure Welsh police authorities receive at least a minimum in grant in line with English authorities.

[4] 2006-07 Government grant figures are provisional outturn figures. 2007-08 figures are budget figures.

Source:

DCLG—English Police Authorities/WAG—Welsh Police Authorities. Population figures sourced by DCLG from ONS (2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are projected).

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the gross revenue expenditure for police authorities per capita was in *(a)* Devon and Cornwall and *(b)* England and Wales in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [156360]

Mr. McNulty: We do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of socio-demographic data to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative resources of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping changes to limit year-on-year variations. Devon and Cornwall actually receives £1.9 million more than it would on a strict application of the funding formula.

Gross revenue expenditure per capita 2005-06 to 2007-08

	Devon and Cornwall	*England and Wales*
2005-06	177.76	234.20
2006-07	164.37	230.77
2007-08	174.83	234.53

Source:

Gross Revenue Expenditure—Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Police Statistics (Estimates for 2006-07 and 2007-08) Resident Population—Department for Communities and Local Government.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, to question 149263, on work permits,

if she will give a breakdown of the 20 non-EU nationalities receiving the most work permits for (i) doctors and (ii) nurses in each of the last 10 years. [158339]

Mr. Byrne: The tables show the number of approved work permit applications that were issued to the top 20 non-EU nationality recipients of work permits (and others) for (i) doctors (table 1) and (ii) nurses (table 2) during the period 1999 to 2006. Data for 1997 and 1998 are not available. There have been no approvals for auxiliary nurses during this period.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Table 1: work permits issued to doctors in the top 20 non-EU countries from 1999-2006

Non-EU state	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
India	60	200	610	955	1,585	2,325	2,060	1,740	9,535
South Africa	40	95	370	1,005	755	565	300	265	3,390
Pakistan	15	60	140	215	290	475	425	375	1,995
China Peoples Republic of	5	40	110	140	170	160	200	215	1,040
Egypt	10	20	100	115	115	120	85	85	655
Nigeria	5	30	55	65	80	95	100	125	550
Sri Lanka	*	*	20	55	65	110	110	120	485
Australia	*	10	60	75	85	80	60	65	435
Malaysia	*	5	20	55	55	65	75	135	405
Libya	5	20	35	55	60	45	50	30	300
Syrian Arab Republic	0	5	25	30	55	55	55	40	265
Myanmar	0	*	15	15	55	50	75	35	255
Trinidad and Tobago	*	5	20	35	45	45	30	40	230
Sudan	5	15	20	35	45	45	35	30	230
Iran	0	0	5	10	20	40	40	55	170
New Zealand	0	5	25	25	30	20	15	15	135
Bangladesh	5	5	10	20	20	20	20	30	125
Jordan	*	0	5	10	20	30	30	30	125
Zimbabwe	0	*	5	15	20	30	25	20	120
Iraq	5	5	5	10	25	15	25	30	120
Others	10	65	145	180	230	295	255	350	1,525
Total	170	580	1,805	3,120	3,820	4,690	4,070	3,830	22,090

* = Indicates one or two.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Table 2: work permits issued to nurses in the top 20 non-EU countries from 1999-2006

Non-EU state	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
Philippines	575	6,760	10,440	11,145	10,960	8,875	4,870	2,840	56,460
India	70	915	2,790	3,935	5,475	7,265	7,230	4,440	32,120
South Africa	415	1,755	2,750	3,410	3,365	2,895	2,010	1,135	17,730
Zimbabwe	275	1,165	1,915	2,700	2,730	2,980	2,330	1,610	15,705
Nigeria	250	925	1,165	1,720	1,335	1,345	1,165	600	8,505
Ghana	50	310	530	635	770	745	650	290	3,980
Australia	80	505	620	555	530	440	370	300	3,400
Pakistan	10	85	410	455	415	515	515	290	2,700
Mauritius	55	200	320	375	430	460	350	175	2,365
Zambia	25	150	345	430	430	385	350	195	2,315
Trinidad and Tobago	165	440	390	360	310	255	190	110	2,215
Kenya	20	115	275	395	385	390	255	145	1,980
Jamaica	85	320	310	260	190	220	240	145	1,775
New Zealand	45	235	285	265	220	180	115	85	1,430
Guyana	10	35	80	120	160	295	225	180	1,110
China Peoples Republic of	5	60	105	90	130	160	130	105	790
Botswana	*	35	115	110	105	125	140	70	705
Malawi	10	40	95	115	120	115	125	70	700

Table 2: work permits issued to nurses in the top 20 non-EU countries from 1999-2006

Non-EU state	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
Malaysia	40	140	135	120	75	70	60	40	685
Nepal	5	15	45	70	90	155	150	150	680
Others	235	925	1,230	1,465	1,370	1,305	1,200	705	8,435
Total	2,430	15,130	24,355	28,740	29,590	29,180	22,670	13,685	165,780

* = Indicates one or two.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Leader of the House what contingency preparations her Office made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs of those preparations were. [156995]

Helen Goodman: The guidance covering the conduct of official business during a general election was last issued in May 2005. This guidance, and other relevant procedures and processes, are kept under constant review by the Cabinet Office and other relevant departments so that they are ready to be put in place when a general election is called.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are entitled to the council tax exemption on his Department's homes. [158109]

Derek Twigg: Based on current deployment numbers, it is estimated that some 3,000 Service personnel with Service Families Accommodation will initially be eligible for the council tax relief payment, increasing to some 5,000 next year when the relief will cover those on operational deployments beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces will be entitled to the new council tax discount on homes not owned by his Department for troops serving abroad. [158110]

Derek Twigg: Based on current deployment numbers, it is estimated that some 5,000 Service personnel with private accommodation will initially be eligible for the council tax relief payment, increasing to some 7,500 next year when the relief will cover those on operational deployments beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to increase the level of the discount for members of the armed forces serving abroad on operational duty each year in line with council tax inflation. [158111]

Derek Twigg: The level of payment will be updated annually based on the average council tax per dwelling in England.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the council tax rebate for serving personnel in the armed forces will come into effect. [158615]

Derek Twigg: Payments will be made from 1 April 2008 and will cover deployments from 1 October 2007.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what units down to company level formed the Spearhead Land Element in 2005. [158394]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Spearhead Land Element was rostered, during 2005, as follows:

Unit	*Dates*
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles	1 January to 5 March
1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets (now 2nd Battalion The Rifles)	5 March to 7 July
1st Battalion The Green Howards (now 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment)	7 July to 1 December
2nd Battalion The Light Infantry (now part of The Rifles)	1 December to 31 December

The Spearhead Land Element is a battalion size commitment. It is up to each battalion to manage this commitment between its available companies or sub units.

Armed Forces: Housing

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has had from former service personnel groups regarding the supply of affordable housing; and if he will make a statement. [155833]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations lead on social housing matters but the Ministry of Defence is in regular contact with them on veterans' housing issues. As Minister for Veterans, I have frequent contact with ex-service organisations. Various initiatives to reduce the risk of homelessness among service leavers and veterans have been discussed but neither my officials nor I recall the specific subject of the supply of affordable housing being raised. The Joint Services Housing Advice Office provides practical advice on access to affordable housing to current armed forces personnel and those who are soon to leave the services.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of members of the armed forces who served on the front line in each of the last five years received bonus payments in each of those years; what the *(a)* amount of bonuses paid and *(b)* largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [157426]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: Members of the armed forces do not receive bonus payments as part of their basic pay package. However all personnel who meet the eligibility criteria are paid the tax free Operational Allowance. The tax free Operational Allowance was effective from 1 April 2006 and came into payment in November 2006.

The amount of the largest single payment is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For financial year 2006-07 35,983 armed forces personnel received payment of the Operational Allowance, totalling £44.77 million. As a proportion of the strength of the armed forces at 1 April 2006 this represents about 18 per cent.

For financial year 2007-08 to 30 September 2007,28,114 armed forces personnel received payment of the Operational Allowance, totalling £14.13 million. As a proportion of the provisional strength of the armed forces at 1 April 2007 this represents about 15 per cent. The marked difference in value between financial year 2006-07 and financial year 2007-08 to date is due to a smaller entitled population and a number of payments being made in advance at the end of financial year 2006-07, prior to closedown of the system for army implementation of JPA.

Army: Officers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers in the Army are surplus to requirement; and what plans there are to reduce this number. [158372]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officer strength is measured against the April 2008 Regular Army Liability (RAL), and on 1 March 2007, a surplus of 628 was recorded. However, the RAL only accounts for permanent posts, and there are currently more than 1,000 temporary posts for officers in addition to the RAL total for other requirements including support to operations. Therefore, even taking account of the RAL surplus, the total officer requirement is not being met and, as a result, there are currently no plans to reduce officer numbers.

Ballistic Missile Defence: USA

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions his Department has had with the US Administration on plans to develop missile silos and x-band radar on land or sea bases in the UK; [158620]

(2) what discussions he and officials from his Department have had with the US Administration on plans to site interceptor missiles or related equipment in the UK. [158621]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: The Ministry of Defence continues to discuss ballistic missile defence issues with the US Administration. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations. As I set out in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report* column 72WS, we have no plans to site missile interceptors in the UK.

Defence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on *(a)* European Security and Defence Policy and *(b)* NATO. [154253]

Des Browne: I attended the Bastille Day celebrations in Paris on 14 July, where I met the French Defence Minister for bilateral discussions. I also had the opportunity to meet him at the end of September in the course of the EU Defence Ministers' informal meeting in Portugal.

On both occasions we discussed a range of issues, including the European Security and Defence Policy and NATO.

Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Ministers from his Department attended the defence systems and equipment international exhibition in September. [158778]

Des Browne: The Minister for the armed forces and the Minister for defence equipment and support each visited the 2007 defence systems and equipment international exhibition in London in September.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the 1 July DASA figures under TSP04 published on 25 August did not include the Army. [157161]

Derek Twigg: Army personnel figures at 1 July 2007 were not published on 23 August due to ongoing data validation from the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. This is necessary to ensure the statistics are of the quality required of a National Statistics output.

Figures for the total strength of the Army at 1 July 2007 will be published in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1: Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces, on 19 October 2007. Detailed statistics relating to Army personnel at 1 July 2007 and 1 October 2007 will be published in TSP 4: Quarterly Press Release, on 22 November 2007.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157863]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally.

Diego Garcia: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 604W, on Diego Garcia: USA, if he will list the occasions in each year from 1979 to date when the US has sought approval for operations they wished to undertake from the island. [155373]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The 1966 UK/US Exchange of Notes requires the US to seek prior approval at the highest political level for any offensive action by the US from their base at Diego Garcia. It is a matter of record that the UK approved US offensive action from Diego Garcia in support of operations in Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. However, I am withholding a full list of the occasions when the US has sought such approval as the release of such information would, or would be likely to, prejudice our international relations.

Ex-servicemen: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on requiring local authorities to accept applications from members of HM armed forces for social housing on leaving the services; and if he will make a statement. [157785]

Derek Twigg: The Secretaries of State of both Departments met on 14 May 2007 to discuss the issue of 'local connection' in the allocation of social housing.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and I announced through a written statement on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 108WS that the Government will be amending the housing legislation at the earliest opportunity to ensure that service personnel are put on an equal footing with others applying for an allocation of social housing. MOD and CLG officials continue to work closely on the issue.

Helicopters: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total budget was for all helicopter procurement projects in each year since 2001. [157046]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The in-year budgets for all helicopter procurement projects for each completed year from financial year 2001-02 to 2006-07 are:

FY	*£ million*
2001-2	842
2002-03	524
2003-04	318
2004-05	257
2005-06	260
2006-07	209

These figures exclude funding for emergent urgent requirements and some commodity items bought in support of these projects.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of British service personnel in Iraq are accommodated in tents. [154439]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Approximately two-thirds of UK service personnel in Iraq are currently accommodated in tents. The tents are protected against direct and indirect attack, with either HESCO bastion or breeze block walls, and are air conditioned, heated and equipped with full sanitation facilities.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army have been killed in operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2003. [158377]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of 30 September 2007, four members of the Territorial Army and one Regular Reservist have been killed on operations in Iraq since 2003. Over the same period, two members of the Territorial Army have been killed on operations in Afghanistan.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the *(a)* 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles, *(b)* 1st Battalion the Royal Green Jackets and *(c)* 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment were deployed on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007. [158393]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The battalions in question operationally deployed, between 2004 and 2007, are as follows:

Unit	*Deployment*	*Date*
1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles	Operation Herrick 7 (Afghanistan)	From October 2007
1st Battalion the Royal Green Jackets (now 2nd Battalion the Rifles)	Operation Telic 9 (Iraq)	November 2006 to March 2007
2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment	Operation Telic 7	November 2005 to May 2006

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what coalition policy is on seeking agreements with militias in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [158446]

Des Browne: It is coalition policy to engage with any group that is interested in joining Iraq's democratic process and reducing violence.

Meteorological Office: Information Officers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by the Meteorological Office. [154344]

Derek Twigg: The Meteorological Office currently employs four full-time and one part-time press officers.

All may deal with other communications issues, including internal communication or marketing tasks.

Military Exercises

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military exercises were cancelled in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and what the reasons were for cancelling each exercise. [158362]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During financial year 2004-05, a total of 379 training events were scheduled in the Defence exercise programme (DXP) of which 79 (20 per cent.) were cancelled. While specific reasons for cancellation are not available in many cases, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, the programme was affected by competing operational priorities. Since that time, improved data capture has enabled a more detailed review of the DXP.

During financial year 2005-06, a total of 533 training events were scheduled in the DXP of which 58 (10.8 per cent.) were cancelled. 30 exercises were cancelled due to operational commitments, 13 were removed as savings measures and 10 were cancelled by other nations. The remaining five events were cancelled in response to changing priorities or rescheduling.

In financial year 2006-07, a total of 699 training events were scheduled in the DXP of which 69 (9.8 per cent.) were cancelled. 35 exercises were cancelled due to operational commitments, five were removed as savings measures and 14 were cancelled by other nations. The remaining 15 events were cancelled in response to changing priorities or rescheduling.

Details of the military exercises cancelled between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2007 are set out in the following table.

Exercise name	*Location*	*Type*	*Reason for cancellation*
Exercises cancelled in financial year 2005-06			
1 Div CT5 Ex	Poland	Land	Operational commitments
3 Div CT5 Ex	UK	Land	Operational commitments
AIR CADRE 06-1	Cyprus	Joint	Revised priorities
AIR WARRIOR 05-10 PX	USA	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
ASWEX 05	UK	Air	Operational commitments
BALTOPS 05	Baltic	Air	Operational commitments
BASS ROCK	Canada	Land	Cancelled by lead nation
CATT 05	UK	Land	Operational priorities
CROSS CHECK 05	Canada	Air	Operational commitments
CYGNET GOLD	France	Land	Cancelled due to MOU issues
CZECH PINEAPPLE	Czech Republic	Land	Operational commitments
DANEX	Denmark/North Sea	Maritime	Savings measure
DRUIDS DANCE	UK	Land	Savings measure
EAGLES FLIGHT 06	UK	Air	Rescheduled as EAGLES EYE 06
EAGLES RESOLVE	UK	Land	Operational commitments
EAGLES RESOLVE-Air	UK	Air	Operational commitments
FIDAE 06	Chile	Air	Operational commitments;
FINGALS CAVE	Canada	Land	Operational commitments
FLOTEX SILVER	Norway	Maritime	Savings measure
FLYCATCHER 05-2	UK	Joint	Revised priorities.
FWIT05	Norway	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
GRUFLEX 05	Spain	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
INITIAL LINK 05	Bahrain	Air	Rescheduled
IRON ANVIL 05	Canada	Air	Operational commitments
JOINT FALCON 06	UK	Air	Operational commitments
JTP 05-5	UK	Air	Operational commitments
KIMMONS POST	Cyprus	Land	Operational commitments
KLEIBER	France	Land	Operational commitments
LEMON PEEL 05-2	UK	Joint	Operational commitments
LONE CHEETAH 05	France	Air	Savings measure
LONE CIVET 05	Europe General	Air	Savings measure
LONE EAGLE 05	Spain	Air	Savings measure
LONE EGRET 05	Slovakia	Air	Savings measure
LONE FEAT 05	Europe General	Air	Savings measure
LONE FLAP 05	Norway	Air	Savings measure
LONE KESTREL 05	Poland	Air	Cancelled by lead nation

Exercise name	*Location*	*Type*	*Reason for cancellation*
LONE KITE 05	Europe General	Air	Savings measure
LONE KNOT 05	Europe General	Air	Savings measure
LONE OSPREY 05	Ukraine	Air	Cancelled due insufficient time to resolve Ukrainian requirements
LUCKY SENTINEL 05	Canada	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
MEDICINE MAN	BATUS Canada	Land	Savings measure
MEDOC	UK	Land	Operational commitments
NOMAD 05	UK	Air	Cancelled due to withdrawal of 3 nations
PATHFINDER	Czech Republic	Land	Cancelled by mutual consent: operational commitments
QUICKSAND 05	Africa	Joint	Operational commitments
RED CORVETTE 06	UK	Joint	Revised priorities
SMART SEARCH 05	USA	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
SNOW CHUTE 06	Norway	Air	Operational commitments
SNOW GOOSE 05-2	Norway	Air	Savings measure
SNOW LEOPARD 06	Norway	Air	Operational priorities
SWORDFISH 05	Mediterranean	Air	Operational commitments
TARGET FLAME 05-3	Cyprus	Air	Operational priorities (OPEVAL)
TEMPLAR FORGE 05-1	Cyprus	Air	Operational commitments
TEMPLAR FORGE 05-2	Cyprus	Air	Operational commitments
TEMPLAR FORGE 05-3	Cyprus	Air	Operational commitments
TRIDENT DOOR 05	Mediterranean	Air	Operational commitments
WYCOMBE WARRIOR 05-07 day 1	UK	Air	Operational commitments
WYCOMBE WARRIOR 05-07 day 2	UK	Air	Operational commitments
Exercises cancelled in financial year 2006-07			
1 ACC WTI 06	North America	Air	Operational commitments
AATTC06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
AIRLIFT RODEO 06	North America	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
ALBERT'S RAPPORT 06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
ALBERT'S RAPPORT 06-2	North America	Air	Operational commitments
ALGONQUIN ROCK 06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
ANATOLIAN EAGLE 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by host nation
APHRODITE 06/07	Cyprus	Land	Revised priorities
AQUATIC ADVENTURE	UK	Joint	Revised priorities
ASSEGAI EYES 06	United Kingdom	Joint	Operational commitments
ASTERIX 2-06/07	FR/UK	Land	Operational commitments
ASTERIX 3-06/07	FR/UK	Land	Operational commitments
BALD EAGLE 06/07	USA	Land	Revised priorities
BARBARY AIR 06-2	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
BLUE CYPRIOT	Cyprus	Land	Operational commitments
COCKFIGHT 2/06	UK	Joint	Operational commitments
COMBINED STRENGTH 06-1	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
COSSACK STEPPE 06/07	Ukraine	Land	Cancelled due to insufficient time to resolve Ukrainian requirements
CYPRUS FORUM 06	Cyprus	Joint	Revised priorities
CZECH PINEAPPLE 06	Czech Rep	Land	Operational commitments
DAPEX 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by host nation
DRAGONS NEST 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
EAGLES EYE 06/07	UK	Land	Operational commitments
ETAM 06	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
EXPRESS THREE 06/07 (RUSSIAN EXPRESS 06)	Russia	Land	Cancelled due to coordination issues with host nation
FINGALS CAVE 06/07	Canada	Land	Cancelled by host nation
FLYING RAPPORT 06	North America	Air	Operational commitments
FROZEN STAR 07	Norway	Air	Revised priorities
FWIT06	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
GAULISH 1-06/07	France/UK	Land	Operational commitments
GAULISH 2/06	Not Specified	Land	Operational commitments
GAULISH 4-06/07	France/UK	Land	Operational commitments
GAULISH 5-06/07	France/UK	Land	Operational commitments
GLOBAL GOLD 07/08	Kenya	Land	Operational commitments

Exercise name	Location	Type	Reason for cancellation
GRAND PRIX 1-06/07	Kenya	Land	Savings measure
GRAND PRIX 3-06/07	Kenya	Land	Savings measure
HEAVY FERRY 06/07	Germany	Land	Revised priorities
JAGGED FLAME 06-1	Europe	Air	Savings measure
JAVELIN 06/07	Nepal	Land	Revised priorities
JRTC06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
JTP 2-06/07	UK	Land	Operational commitments
KELP FIRE 05/06	Falklands	Joint	Operational priorities
LION STAR 1-07/08	Cyprus	Land	Savings measure
LOG PROVIDER 06	United kingdom	Joint	Revised priorities
LONE FIN 07	Europe	Air	Revised priorities
LONE FLAP 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
LONE FOIL	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
LONE FRAME 06-1	Rest of World	Air	Rescheduled
LONE KNOT 06	Europe	Air	Postponed by lead nation
LRIF06-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
MAPLE FLAG 39-1	North America	Air	Operational commitments
MAPLE FLAG 39-3	North America	Air	Operational commitments
NIGHT HAWK 2/06	Denmark	Joint	Operational commitments
NOBLE AVENGER 06	Europe	Air	Cancelled by host nation
PAPER CHASE 06/07	Germany	Land	Operational commitments
PATH FINDER 06/07	Czech Rep	Land	Operational commitments
PRAIRIE BRAVE 06/07	Canada	Land	Operational commitments
RAINBOW SERPENT 06/07	Australia	Land	Ex reduced in scope due to Australian operational commitments
READINESS CHALLENGE 06/07	USA	Land	Cancelled by lead nation
ROCK CHALLENGE	USA	Joint	Savings measure
SNOW FALCON 07-1	Europe	Air	Revised priorities
SOLENZARA AIR EX 06	Europe	Air	Operational commitments
SPONTEX06-1	Europe	Air	Revised priorities
TARGET FLAME 06-3	Europe	Air	Revised priorities
TRIPLEX/FLAME 06-1	Europe	Air	Cancelled by lead nation
TUNUK WARRIOR 06/07	Turkey	Land	Cancelled by lead nation
TWENTY SEVENTH SHOT 05/06	Gibraltar	Land	Operational commitments
WET GAP 06/07	Germany	Land	Revised priorities
WYCOMBE WARRIOR 09-06 Days 1 and 2	United Kingdom	Air	Cancelled by NATO

NATO Rapid Reaction Corps

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military units form the UK's current commitment to the NATO Response Force. [158395]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The NATO Response Force is a high-readiness reaction force which comprises four elements (maritime, land, air and special forces) to which allies contribute forces on a six-month rotating basis. The UK is providing the Maritime Component Command for the current rotation of the NATO Response Force (July 2007 to January 2008). The UK forces supporting the Maritime Component Command are drawn, as required, from the Joint Rapid Reaction Force and comprise a carrier group with associated air and surface assets, amphibious forces, naval mine counter measures units, and auxiliary support vessels. In addition, the UK is making some air-to-air refuelling and in-theatre lift assets available to the Air Component Command.

Nuclear Weapons: Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether in-house provision of the service for the road transport of nuclear weapons by HM Naval Base Clyde is still under consideration. [157795]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are not proposing to pursue that option. The operation will remain with AWE plc for the foreseeable future.

Reserve Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many volunteer reservists in each service are deployed on operations. [157044]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 31 August 2007 (the latest figures available), the number of volunteer reservists deployed on operations was:

	Royal Navy Reserve	Royal Marines Reserve	Territorial Army	Royal Auxiliary Air Force
Telic (Iraq)	26	9	169	66
Herrick (Afghanistan)	6	0	397	45
Oculus (Balkans)	1	0	15	0

	Royal Navy Reserve	Royal Marines Reserve	Territorial Army	Royal Auxiliary Air Force
Sierra Leone and Democratic Republic of Congo	0	0	0	0
Global Counter Terrorism	0	0	6	0
Total	33	9	587	111

In addition, there were 627 reservists mobilised on pre-deployment training, receiving medical treatment, or on post-operational leave.

Territorial Army: Training

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of training days per year was for members of the Territorial Army in each year since 2003. [158378]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Historically, TA pay has been sufficient to meet the demand for trained TA manpower to support current operations; and for all TA officers and soldiers to train to a level that allows them to be 'certified efficient' and qualify for Bounty. Current levels of Territorial Army (TA) pay permit approximately 41 training days per person per year.

War Pensions

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former members of the Merchant Marine have been awarded a war pension. [158439]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not available, but figures are available for the number of former members of the merchant marine in receipt of pensions under the War Pensions Mercantile Marine scheme over the past five years. This information is set out in the following table.

War Pensions in payment under the Mercantile Marine scheme[1]

	Disablement pensioners
30 June 2003	1,360
30 June 2004	1,205
30 June 2005	1,090
30 June 2006	980
30 June 2007	855

[1] All numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Doha Trade Talks

8. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the Doha development round of international trade talks. [158524]

Mr. Thomas: Negotiations on all aspects of the Doha Development Agenda continue to take place at the WTO in Geneva. The UK Government remain fully committed to working with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other WTO members to secure an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha round.

Women's Education and Economic Performance

9. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the links between education on sexual health for women in developing countries and the economic performance of the country concerned. [158525]

Mr. Malik: Little research has been commissioned or evaluated on the link between education on sexual health for women and overall economic performance.

It is known and accepted that there is a strong link between education for women and overall economic performance in a country. It is also generally assumed that education on sexual health for women leads to better health outcomes. We are funding an evaluation of an adolescent sexual health intervention in Tanzania which will provide important new knowledge on how best to deliver education on sexual health to achieve better health.

Zimbabwe

10. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [158526]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe is deteriorating. An estimated 4.1 million people will need food aid by year end. Malnutrition has reached emergency levels in places. Urban water and sanitation collapse is causing disease outbreaks. HIV/AIDS remains rife.

DFID is providing life-saving humanitarian assistance until the policy environment improves. We contributed an additional £8 million to the World Food Programme recently which will feed two million people for two months.

12. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [158528]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) and the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) today (UIN 158522 and 158523).

Climate Change

11. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help the poorest countries address the adverse impacts of climate change. [158527]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is adapting its development programmes in countries to take account of the adverse impacts of climate change and is assisting Multilateral Development Banks and UNDP to also do so.

Burma

13. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Burma. [158529]

Mr. Malik: A third of Burma's population lives below the poverty line. Severe economic mismanagement has deprived Burma of the economic growth enjoyed by its south-east Asian neighbours, and investment in public services has been minimal. The brutal suppression of recent demonstrations against economic hardship has exacerbated humanitarian conditions. DFID is providing £1 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs in Burma, in addition to £8 million already planned for this year.

Ethiopia

14. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia. [158530]

Mr. Malik: A United Nations team made an assessment of the situation at the beginning of September, and concluded that there was no major humanitarian crisis in the Somali (Ogaden) region although humanitarian conditions within conflict areas were deteriorating, and there was an urgent need for food and medical supplies, and help with water and sanitation.

DFID and the other donors are working with the Ethiopian government and the United Nations to ensure that humanitarian assistance will be delivered to those who need it.

Corruption

15. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the Government's policies for combating corruption in aid recipient countries. [158531]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Corruption is a serious threat to development. DFID's policy is to build effective states that promote development and invest significantly in efforts to address corruption and improve governance.

DFID regards anti-corruption as a priority and discusses this with partner Governments when agreeing and reviewing its Country Assistance Plans. These plans are informed by a comprehensive governance analysis and assessment of local priorities.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to increase accessibility of health care in developing countries. [158296]

Mr. Malik: DFID's strategy "Working Together for Better Health", published in June 2007 sets out our approach to support developing countries to improve the health of their people and reaching the Millennium Development Goals. This is to deliver more resources for health; to expand access to basic health services; to improve the effectiveness of international funding for health; and to demonstrate results and build the evidence base of what works.

Our spending on health has doubled since 2002-03. About 15 per cent. of our aid goes to health, a total of £800 million in 2006-07. Overall, the UK is the second largest donor to health. Most of this help is directed through our country programmes. For example, in Bangladesh, DFID is the largest supporter of the health sector donor pooled fund. Immunisation coverage has reached 80 per cent. for the five vaccine-preventable diseases and infant mortality is down from 116 to 88 (1994-2004).

The International Health Partnership, launched by the Prime Minister on 5 September, will help ensure that increasing resources are used more effectively to strengthen health systems and deliver better care and services. In bringing together international agencies, major donors and partner countries, it will work to make sure health services better meet individual country needs.

Developing Countries: Natural Disasters

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to minimise the impact of natural disasters in developing countries. [158295]

Mr. Malik: DFID's policy on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)[1] is to support measures to prevent and mitigate the impact of natural disasters at the global, country and community level. At the global level, DFID is supporting DRR programmes through the Geneva-based UN International Strategy for DRR, the World Bank, the ProVention Consortium of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the International Federation of Red Cross Societies. DFID is also supporting the community-level DRR work of five NGOs.

DFID's support for DRR through its regional programmes includes the Chars Livelihoods Programme in Bangladesh, which has helped raise 32,700 households on plinths above the flood level; the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility, to enable Governments to jump-start recovery efforts after disasters; and an NGO Consortium for DRR in Niger, which aims to strengthen vulnerable communities. Following the Government's commitment to allocate up to 10 per cent. of each emergency response to a natural disaster to DRR, where appropriate, DFID is supporting DRR in Indonesia; the Indian Ocean Early Warning System; UN capacity-building in climate adaptation; and the World Health Organisation Disease Early Warning System and institutional capacity-building in Pakistan.

[1] See DFID's policy paper 'Reducing the Risk of Disasters—Helping to Achieve Sustainable Poverty Reduction in a Vulnerable World'. ISBN 186192 751 7 (deposited in the Libraries of the House).

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid and assistance has been provided by his Department for development in Palestine. [158631]

Mr. Malik: DFID has provided over £380 million in assistance to Palestinians since the Oslo peace accords were signed in 1994. For 2007-08, we have made £31.6 million available. Of this, we have provided £1 million to the Red Cross for humanitarian work; £3 million to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) and £15.6 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). On 17 July, the Secretary of State for International Development announced a £3 million contribution to help the Palestinian Authority pay off its debts to the private sector.

DFID provides technical assistance to Palestinian institutions, including the Office of the President, the Negotiations Affairs Department and the Ministry of Finance. We are launching a £3 million initiative to help Palestinian businesses compete in new markets and increase their exports. Together with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, we work to reduce conflict through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool.

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* officials have had with the United States Administration on its decision to suspend the US contribution to the United Nations Population Fund; and if he will make a statement. [158367]

Mr. Thomas: There have been no discussions between DFID Ministers or officials and the United States Administration on the suspension of the US contribution to UNFPA.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who the British representative is on the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund; and what relevant *(a)* specialist and *(b)* general qualifications and experience he or she has. [158370]

Mr. Thomas: The British representative on the Executive Board of UNFPA is a representative of the UK mission in New York, who acts on behalf of the UK ambassador to the UN. The representatives have specialist skills and qualifications in the areas of health and development as well as general qualifications in economics and international enterprise. The representatives' experience in government ranges from five to 25 years.

There is a strong partnership between colleagues in the UK mission and DFID. The former liaise with DFID on all health and development issues.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Central Office of Information: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in the Central Office of Information Media Monitoring Unit monitor internet blogs; and what the estimated cost of such monitoring is for 2007-08. [158688]

Gillian Merron: At present, the Media Monitoring Unit has no staff monitoring internet blogs and there is, therefore, no cost in 2007-08.

Charity Commission

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment has been made of the impact of the Charities Act on *(a)* the workload and *(b)* the adequacy of funding of the Charity Commission. [155627]

Phil Hope: The Government have considered issues around the work load and resources of the Charity Commission, including obligations arising from the Charities Act 2006. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced the details of the Charity Commission's financial settlement for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 as part of the comprehensive spending review.

	£ million
Resource funding baseline for 2007-08 (pre-CSR announcement)	30.2
New resource funding baseline for 2007-08	31.7
Resource funding for 2008-09	30.9
Resource funding for 2009-10	30.2
Resource funding for 2010-11	29.4

The Commission will receive £0.5 million in recognition of their responsibilities in the Charities Act. This sum has been added to their pre-CSR announcement baseline which also includes the previously announced funding of £1 million to support the implementation of their counter-terrorism strategy.

We are currently in positive discussions with the Commission to discuss ways to fund the new licensing regime for public charitable collections.

Delegation and Coherence

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made in implementation of the policy statement Delegation and Coherence issued by the Cabinet Office in September 2006. [156830]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* Cabinet Office officials continue to work with Departments and the civil service unions to implement the key areas identified in the statement to improve operation of the delegated pay arrangements. Discussions have taken place with Heads of Professions and Departments on greater pay coherence for similar workforce groups; a set of reward principles has been published to inform departmental reward strategies; the Treasury's annual Pay Remit Guidance

has been strengthened to help narrow unjustified pay gaps between Departments; and we are currently considering the scope for improving the delegation process and identifying areas that can be managed more corporately.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153287]

Gillian Merron: On rare occasions, officials may purchase flowers for specific purposes e.g. events, functions but there are strict guidelines in place determining such transactions. Details of expenditure can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many websites the Cabinet Office operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running the Office's websites in the last five years. [157885]

Gillian Merron: There are currently 14 Cabinet Office websites. There were 38 Cabinet Office websites as at 1 January 2005.

As part of the Government's Website Rationalisation strategy (part of the Transformational Government agenda), the Cabinet Office is focusing its internet presence on two websites—the Civil Service site (www.civilservice.gov.uk). and the Cabinet Office site (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk). All other Cabinet Office websites will be closed by March 2012.

Annual website costs (including VAT) are as follows:

Financial year	*Cabinet Office cost (£)*
2006-07	690,000
2005-06	975,000
2004-05	670,000

Website expenditure within the Cabinet Office before 2004-05 is not available. Before this time, budgets for communication activity (including website development and maintenance) were devolved to Cabinet Office business units, and there was no central monitoring of web expenditure.

The Cabinet Office was responsible for the Directgov website until April 2006, when it transferred to the Central Office of Information. Excluding one-off marketing and infrastructure renewal costs, expenditure for Directgov was £5.4 million in 2005-06 and £5.4 million in 2004-05. Prior to 2004-05, Directgov was funded from within the UKOnline budget which was the responsibility of the former Office of the e-Envoy and it has not been possible to obtain financial information for this period.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by the Cabinet Office has received since 1 January 2007. [157886]

Gillian Merron: Based on statistics, the website with the most hits was the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway (www.careers.civil-service.gov.uk) which from 1 January to the end of August received:

23,612,818 hits

7,940,377 page views

948,502 visits

Based on statistics, the website with the least hits was the HM Government website (www.hmg.gov.uk) which since it was set up on 9 April received:

30,682 hits

7,055 page views

3,598 visits

"Hits" can be a misleading statistic as, depending on how a website is designed and managed, an individual looking at a single page can generate a widely varying number of "hits". Statistics of "Page Views" and "Visits" are generally accepted as a more accurate representation of website usage.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have been appointed to his Department outside of civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153292]

Gillian Merron: The only appointments that fall outside civil service grades in the Cabinet Office are those made using fee-paid contracts. The number of fee-paid appointments made during the period 27 June 2007 to 26 July 2007 is six.

In addition, my Department publishes information annually on appointments to the public bodies for which it is responsible. Data for 2006-07 are in the process of being collated, and will be published shortly on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk

Copies will also be placed in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

Departments: Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on Departments: publications, if he will place in the Library a copy of the July 2007 edition of the Central Office of Information's White Book. [153889]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the July 2007 edition of the Central Office of Information's White Book. [158188]

Gillian Merron: The publication of the White Book is being prepared to reflect the changes in departmental boundaries and responsibilities.

The new edition will be published and placed in the Library next month.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of construction of the facilities required to stage the Olympic shooting events at the Royal Artillery Barracks; and if she will make a statement; [154847]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost of staging the shooting events for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley. [154848]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Outline assessments during the bid phase were conducted on the basis of providing the overlay required to stage shooting events at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley. However, during the bidding phase, the International Olympic Committee commented on the distance between Bisley and the Olympic Park. On the basis of this feedback, and following consultation with the International Shooting Federation, the Royal Artillery Barracks was selected as the shooting venue, due to its iconic location and its close proximity to the Olympic Park and Village. These factors will improve the athlete and spectator experience by limiting travel and making it easier to attend other Games events on the same day in the Olympic Park.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will provide a full breakdown of the £2.7 million Olympic contingency fund; and whether any of that contingency has been drawn down. [157734]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* On 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450, I announced a funding provision for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games of £9.325 billion. This included provision for £2.747 billion programme contingency, comprising:

£2,509 million contingency to reflect the risk of additional costs arising from factors such as unforeseen ground conditions, inflation beyond existing provision and changes in legislation; and

£238 million for any potential increases in the costs of policing and wider security.

The use of the programme contingency is subject to approval by the ministerial funders group. As set out in recent NAO report "The Budget for the London 2012, Olympic and Paralympic games," in June 2007, the group agreed to release £360 million of programme contingency to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). This will be drawn down from April 2008.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of the cash flow forecast for the Olympic Delivery Authority. [157735]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Details of the Olympic Delivery Authority's cash flows for 2007-08 are included in the ODA's 2007-08 business plan summary, published on its website. A copy of which is in the Libraries of both Houses.

Chapter 20 of the CSR White Paper published on 9 October sets out the Government's contribution for the next three years (2008-09 to 2010-11). The balance of the funding requirement will be met, as planned in March 2007, from contributions from the Mayor of London (GLA and LDA); from funding already coming in from Olympic lottery games; from funds from the Sports Lottery Distributor; and from the funds to be transferred from the National Lottery Distribution Fund, subject to affirmative resolution in both Houses.

Further details of cash flows will be set out in future business plan summaries.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how the issue of financing costs is being addressed in the Olympics Delivery Authority budget. [157736]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The CSR announced grant in aid from Government of £1,559/£1,104/£1,050 million in 2008-09 to 2010-11. Provision for 2011-12 to 2013-14 will be confirmed in the next CSR.

The balance of the funding requirement will be met, as planned in March 2007, from contributions from the Mayor of London (GLA and IDA); from funding already coming in from Olympic lottery games; from funds from the Sports lottery distributor; and from the funds to be transferred from the national lottery distribution fund, subject to affirmative resolution in both Houses.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much it will cost to rent all facilities not located on the Olympic park necessary to stage the London 2012 Olympics, broken down by venue. [158728]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: The London Organising Committee for the Olympic games (LOCOG) have informed me that they have set aside an allowance of circa £30 million for arrangements for non-Olympic park sporting venues.

LOCOG are not currently in a position to disclose further information, by venue, as they are still negotiating terms with some of the venue owners and to do so would prejudice their commercial interests.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the likely cost of the London 2012 Olympic games that will be paid via the council tax in London; and if she will make a statement. [158837]

Tessa Jowell: The estimated contribution from the London council tax, as announced in 2003, remains at £625 million.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years; [157913]

(2) how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157914]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor (Tony Blair) to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 196W.

Information on the number of visits to the site can be found on the No. 10. website (http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page13384.asp). A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

The running costs for the No. 10 website the financial year 1 April 2006-1 April 2007 were £189,689. The costs reflect the creation of new channels with which to engage with the public, including e-petitions and the YouTube channel, both of which are major innovations in online Government communication.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158901]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1108W. Figures for the financial year 2007-08 will be published in the usual way after the end of the financial year.

Ministers: Grace and Favour Housing

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the grace and favour properties available to members of the Government; and who the current occupants of those properties are. [157812]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers occupy each of the official ministerial residences; and which of them *(a)* pay and *(b)* do not pay council tax on their official residences. [158074]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The flats above numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street have traditionally been the residences of the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer. I currently reside in Number 11 Downing Street and my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer resides in Number 10 Downing Street. One of the flats in Admiralty House is currently occupied by my right hon. Friend, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Malloch-Brown). Council tax is paid personally on these official residences by me and both my right hon. Friends. The remaining official residences are currently unoccupied. The ministerial residence in South Eaton Place, Pimlico, is no longer required and it will be sold, with the proceeds going to the Exchequer.

In addition, I have the use of Chequers and my right hon. Friends the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Foreign Secretary, have the use of Dorneywood and Chevening respectively. Council tax in respect of Chequers, Dorneywood and Chevening is a matter for the trustees. Ministers in the Northern Ireland Office have the use of accommodation in Hillsborough Castle and Stormont.

Prime Minister's Questions

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Prime Minister how many hours are spent each week in preparation for Prime Minister's Questions by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers (i) in Downing Street and (ii) on average in other Departments; and if he will make a statement. [158828]

The Prime Minister: I am briefed in exactly the same way as my predecessors were.

Royal Household: Finance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister what contributions to the cost of the Royal Household are met by countries other than the United Kingdom where Her Majesty the Queen is Head of State; and if he will make a statement. [156845]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

None.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to tax aircraft emissions rather than impose air passenger duty; and if he will make a statement. [157260]

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues about potential alternatives to air passenger duty; and what plans he has to change the current system. [157317]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Members to the Chancellor's statement in the House on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 167W, and to the pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 'Meeting the aspirations of the British people' (Cm.7227) paragraphs 7.54 to 7.56.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England developed breast cancer in each of the last three years; [157519]

(2) what proportion of people in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England developed breast cancer in each of the last three years. [157520]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated, 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking how many people developed breast cancer (a) in Hertfordshire and (b) nationally in each of the last three years [157519], and what proportion of people developed breast cancer (a) in Hertfordshire and (b) nationally in each of the last three years [157520].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant neoplasm of breast are for 2004. Numbers and rates per 100,000 for 2002-2004 for England and the county of Hertfordshire are given in Table 1 below.

It is not possible to produce breast cancer rates for males in Hertfordshire due to the small numbers involved.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases and rates[1] per 100,000 of malignant neoplasm of breast[2]. England and the county of Hertfordshire[3], by sex, 2002-04

		Registrations			Rates		
		2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
England	Male	254	289	272	0.9	1.0	0.9
	Female	35,149	37,283	36,939	117	123	121
Hertfordshire	Male	8	7	7	—	—	—
	Female	621	711	667	103	114	104

[1] Rates are directly age-standardised to control for differences in the age structure of populations between geographical areas over time.
[2] Breast cancer is defined as code C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[3] Rates were not calculated for males in Hertfordshire as the numbers of registrations were too low.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Childcare: Finance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funds are available to local authorities for provision under the forthcoming childcare duty. [157750]

Beverley Hughes: I have bean asked to reply.

We are determined that local authorities should have the resources they need to fulfil the statutory duty to secure from April 2008, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents. From that month the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant to local authorities in England will include revenue and capital funding as shown in the table to fund Sure Start Children's Centres; support outcomes, quality and diversity; and support child care sufficiency and access, This funding is not ring-fenced and it remains up to individual local authorities to determine how their funds will be spent.

	£ million	
	Revenue funding	*Capital funding*
2008-09	1,239	379
2009-10	1,340	472
2010-11	1,508	361

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157908]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to staff currently seconded to the Treasury can be found on the HMT Website at:

http://www.hm-treasury_gov.uk/about/about_secondee.cfm

Disability Aids: Finance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allocate additional funding to improve wheelchair and mobility equipment available to disabled children and young people as set out in the report Aiming High for Disabled Children by his Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [156953]

Andy Burnham: The Department of Health (DH) 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement of £110 billion by 2010-11 included additional resource to support improved outcomes for disabled children (as committed in the HM Treasury/ Department for Education and Skills (DCSF) report "Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families".

Improving outcomes for disabled children and their families will also be reflected in the new PSA and indicator set, with a joint DCSF/DH national disabled children's indicator as part of the new CSR performance management framework setting out Government priorities and driving improved provision and delivery of services.

Employment: Mentally Ill People

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish his Department's Review of Mental Health and Employment; if he will give priority to extending access to proven psychological therapies in order to increase employment opportunities and reduce the risk of unemployment among people with mental health problems; and if he will make a statement. [157846]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the statement my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health made on 10 October 2007.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residential dwellings in England are recorded by the Valuation Office Agency with the dwelling house coding of having *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedrooms, *(c)* three bedrooms and *(d)* four or more bedrooms. [158058]

Jane Kennedy: As at 4 October 2007, the relevant number of dwellings in England were 2,545,082 with one bedroom, 6,247,291 with two bedrooms, 10,045,887 with three bedrooms and 3,139,945 with four or more bedrooms.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in revenue from reducing the *(a)* basic rate of income tax and *(b)* higher rate of income tax by one per cent. in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [158076]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested will be published in the next edition of HM Treasury's tax ready reckoner—'2007 tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs'—which will be published later this year.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Financial Services Authority is taking to assess the effectiveness of the contingency plans of the UK's financial institutions for a potential influenza pandemic. [158470]

Kitty Ussher: In October/November 2006, the Financial Services Authority, on behalf of the Tripartite Authorities (HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority (FSA)), led a six week market wide exercise on pandemic flu. Around 70 market participants took part and a report on lessons learned is available on the Tripartite Financial Sector Continuity website (www.fsc.gov.uk).

The Tripartite Authorities have held a series of follow up events to discuss key issues arising from the exercise and the FSA continues to work with retail banks, insurance firms, recovery site providers and telecommunications firms to produce statements about how they would respond in a pandemic.

In addition, the FSA has conducted benchmarking to establish the preparedness of firms to deal with a range of threats or hazards, including pandemic influenza.

Long Term Public Finance Report 2007

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the Long Term Public Finance Report 2007 was not published with the Pre-Budget Report; and when he plans to publish it. [158850]

Andy Burnham: As set out in paragraph 2.45 of the 2007 pre-Budget report, the Government publish the "Long-term public finance report" to provide a comprehensive analysis of long-term socio-economic and demographic developments, and their likely impact on the public finances, based on the most up-to-date information available.

The population projections provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are central to this analysis. Given that ONS will not publish the new population projections until the 23 October 2007, the next long-term public finance report will now be published at a later date.

Mortgages

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the maximum fixed term mortgage available is in the UK; and what estimate he has made of how many borrowers have signed up to such a facility; [157807]

(2) what estimate he has made of how many mortgage holders in the UK have fixed term mortgages. [157811]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Service Authority (FSA) publishes comparative tables of products offered by lenders that report that the maximum fixed term for a mortgage in the UK is 25 years. These tables are available at http://www.fsa.gov.uk/tables

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes the number of fixed term mortgages issued each year in the UK. These statistics are available at http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

Pay

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees have income in excess of £50,000 per year; and what percentage of the total employed workforce that figure represents. [157392]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many employees have income in excess of £50,000 per year; and what percentage of total employed workforce that figure represents. (157392)

The information requested is not available in respect of income, but the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) can be used to provide a partial answer for UK earnings. ASHE is earned out in April each year and is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent. sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

ASHE is not used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is greater than a specific amount, but is used to provide estimates of proportions of the workforce in that category. I attach a table showing an estimate of the percentage of the UK workforce which earned greater than £50,000 per year, from the 2006 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Proportion of UK employees paid in excess of £50,000 per year[1]

UK 2006	*Percentage*
Full-time	8.3
Part-time	0.5
All jobs	6.3

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Public Sector: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether delivery agreements will accompany the new public service agreements; and if he will make a statement. [158398]

Andy Burnham: A delivery agreement was published for each public service agreement (PSA) alongside the pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review. They are available on HM Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/pbr_csr07_index.cfm

Stamp Duties: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was collected from stamp duty in each financial year since 1997 in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Peterborough City Council area; and if he will make a statement. [157948]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the stamp duty land tax yield at local authority/unitary authority level are not available for years prior to 2005-06. Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are provided in the tables from the following HMRC website:

2005-06: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table154-0506.pdf

2006-07: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table154-0607.pdf

Estimates of stamp duty land tax yield at parliamentary constituency level are under review. The HMRC website will announce an update on the publication timetable in October.

Suicide: Children

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suicides there were amongst children between the ages of 10 and 18 years in each of the last 10 years, broken down by year group. [157790]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides there were amongst children between the ages of 10 and 18 years in each of the last 10 years, broken down by year groups. (157790)

The table below contains numbers of suicides for those aged under 19 by single year of age in England and Wales from 1996 to 2005, the latest available year.

The definition of suicide used by ONS assumes that most deaths from "injury or poisoning of undetermined intent" at ages 15 and over are cases where the harm was self-inflicted but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. For this reason, ONS includes these in its suicide statistics for those aged 15 and over, along with deaths from intentional self-harm. The same cannot be assumed in deaths at ages under 15. There were no deaths in children aged under 13 with a suicide verdict for the period requested.

Number of deaths from suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent, ages 13 to 18, England and Wales, 1996 to 2005[1]

	Suicide[2]			Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent[3]		
	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years
1996	1	2	9	24	25	61
1997	1	4	6	27	28	42
1998	1	2	8	19	41	46
1999	1	1	7	20	37	57
2000	1	2	16	10	43	48
2001	1	4	8	17	29	45
2002	2	3	11	18	33	36
2003	2	1	4	16	27	36
2004	3	2	7	20	23	42
2005	1	0	6	14	17	34

[1] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

[2] The came of death for suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84for 200J onwards.

[3] The cause of death for injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E980-E989 excluding E9 88.8 for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes YW-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending for 2001 onwards.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of tax relief on pensions *(a)* in total and *(b)* for higher rate contributions in 2007-08. [158144]

Kitty Ussher: As set out in the 2007 pre-Budget report, the annual cost of tax relief on approved pension schemes for 2007-08 is estimated to be £17.5 billion.

Detailed estimates covering the period 1998-99 to 2006-07 are available in table 7.9 on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 24 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 52W.

Taxation: International Civil Servant Status

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in the UK have international civil servant status for tax purposes; what such status means in terms of allowances and exemptions; and if he will make a statement. [158423]

Jane Kennedy: Under UK tax law there is no such person as an "international civil servant". However, officials of the United Nations are sometimes referred to as international civil servants. There is no requirement for visiting officials to notify HM Revenue and Customs of their presence in the UK. Those who are present in the UK for a sufficient length of time to become resident in the UK will be dealt with locally. Information is not collated centrally.

The UK tax position of employees of the United Nations is set out in the United Nations and International Court of Justice (Immunities and Privileges) Order 1974. This provides immunities and privileges that are normal for international organisations. It includes among other things that officials of the UN shall be exempt from income tax on remuneration received by them from the UN. UN Officials are however subject to a form of internal tax operated by the UN, which is referred to as the Staff Assessment.

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris Bryant: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many teenagers gave birth in each constituency in 2006. [157349]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many teenagers gave birth in each constituency in 2006. (157349).

The attached table provides the number of live births to mothers aged less than 20 in each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, in 2006. Since these figures are for births rather than maternities, a small number of teenage mothers who had multiple births will have been counted more than once. A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Unemployment: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the 18 to 24-year-old population of the Peterborough constituency was not been in education, training or employment in each quarter since the second quarter of 2001; and if he will make a statement. [158648]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the 18 to 24 year old population of the Peterborough constituency has not been in education, training or employment in each quarter since the second quarter of 2001. (158648)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Quarterly data are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

The table attached shows the numbers of 18 to 24 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in Peterborough for the 12 month periods ending in February for 2002 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 month periods ending in March for 2005 to 2007, from the APS. The table also shows these numbers as the percentage of all 18 to 24 year olds in the area for each year.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Persons aged 18 to 24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training resident in the Peterborough constituency

12 months ending	*Number (Thousand)*	*Percentage of all 18-24 year olds*
February 2002	2	25
February 2003	2	18
February 2004	2	21
March 2005	2	27
March 2006	2	26
March 2007	2	25

Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 4757W, on 18 to 24-year-olds, how many 18 to 24-year-olds were not in full-time education, employment or training in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 years. [158340]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many 18 to 24 year olds were not in full-time education, employment or training in each (a) local authority area and (b) parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 years. (158340)

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* function is of the Valuation Office Agency's World Class Programme. [158065]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1640W, and also refer to the agency's Forward Plan 2007-10 published on 18 June 2007.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1018W to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) on the Valuation Office Agency, what the destination was of each of the 412 flights. [158286]

Jane Kennedy: Details of the destinations of these 412 flights could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and time.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's communications toolkit. [158400]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 217-18W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond). The VGA's communications toolkit has been laid in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England) last met. [158402]

Jane Kennedy: This programme board last met on 22 November 2005.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Rating Cost Guide in CD-Rom format. [158414]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's Rating Cost Guide provides indicative costs of buildings and machinery for use in valuations for non-domestic rating purposes. Since 2004 it has been made available to the general public for purchase at a charge of £750.00 (in CD-Rom format).

Valuation Office: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on *(a)* champagne and wine and *(b)* alcohol in the last year for which audited figures are available. [158066]

Jane Kennedy: Costs attributable to *(a)* and *(b)* are minimal because the Valuation Office Agency's policy is that alcohol should not normally be provided for internal conferences or for external events. They are not recorded separately and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and time.

Valuation Office: Digital Versatile Disks

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1019W to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on the Valuation Office Agency: digital versatile disks, how many videos, including VHS formats and electronic digital formats, have been produced by the Agency in the last 36 months. [158284]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has produced no videos in VHS format over the last 36 months. Since October 2004, 25 internal 'videos' to staff have been produced in a digital format available to view via the Agency's wide area network.

Valuation Office: Visits Abroad

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1020W, on the Valuation Office Agency: visits abroad, to which bodies the agency's staff have been seconded in Australia; how many staff have been seconded; and what divisions of the agency they come from. [158283]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has sponsored three reciprocal, six-month, secondments from the Valuation Office to the Australian Valuation Office.

1. Secondee from Tunbridge Wells Valuation Office to Australian Valuation Office for the period 30 January 2006 to 30 July 2006.

2. Secondee from DV Services Central (Shrewsbury) to Australian Valuation Office for the period 2 October 2006 to 30 March 2006.

3. Secondee from Harrogate Valuation Office to Australian Valuation Office for the period 2 April 2007 to 28 September 2007.

VAT: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether VAT will be levied *(a)* on the local authority search elements and *(b)* drainage and water search elements of home information packs. [158405]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2243W, to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt). Drainage and water searches remain VAT standard-rated when supplied by a VAT registered business.

VAT: Swimming

Janet Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on reducing the level of VAT payable on swimming lessons for children; and if he will make a statement. [158441]

Jane Kennedy: Representations are regularly made to Treasury Ministers and officials on a wide range issues.

VAT is not chargeable on swimming lessons provided by non-profit making bodies, local authorities, schools, and private tutors, otherwise they are VAT standard-rated. The VAT agreements with our European partners that allow us to keep our existing zero rates, and which govern the scope of our VAT exemptions and reduced rates, do not allow us to reduce the rate of VAT currently payable on children's swimming lessons.

Venture Capital

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place for directors and elite shareholders of businesses *(a)* in the process of being and *(b)* after having been taken over by (i) private equity businesses and (ii) non-private equity businesses to disclose all deals, promises and transactions of personal benefit to themselves, both prior to and subsequent to the takeover; what duties such directors and elite shareholders have to other shareholders and employees of the business being taken over; what proposals he has to change the existing arrangements; and if he will bring forward urgent proposals to legislate to make such disclosure necessary. [152607]

Kitty Ussher: Takeovers are supervised and regulated by the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers in accordance with the rules set out in the Takeover Code. This provides an orderly framework within which takeovers are conducted, contributing to the integrity of financial markets, and ensuring that all shareholders are treated fairly and are not denied an opportunity to decide on the merits of a takeover.

The Code requires:

that all shareholders of the same class be treated equally (general principle 1)

the disclosure of share dealings during the offer period (rule 8)

that an offeror covers its intentions for the future of the business, including likely repercussions on employment (rule 24.1)

the disclosure of details of directors' interests and dealings in securities of the offeror company (rule 25.3)

the disclosure of details of directors' remuneration or service contracts (rule 25.4)

In addition, the FSA's Listing Rules require listed companies to disclose directors' service contracts, to notify relevant interests in securities by directors and persons connected with them, and also restrict dealings in the company's securities by directors and persons connected with them. Further obligations in relation to the disclosure of relevant information and of particular transactions in substantial portions of shares in a company whose shares are traded on regulated markets are contained in the FSA's Disclosure and Transparency Rules.

The Companies Act 2006 imposes statutory duties on directors of all companies, whether before or after a takeover, whether listed on a public market or privately held. These include the duties in chapter 2 of part 10 among other things to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its shareholders as a whole, having regard—among other matters—to the interests of the company's employees, to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence, and to avoid conflicts of interest. The Act imposes specific requirements for prior shareholder authorisation in areas likely to give rise to conflicts of interest, such as loans by the company to a director or long-term service contracts for directors. Chapters 4 and 6 of part 15 of the Act also impose disclosure requirements in respect of directors' remuneration, directors' service contracts, and advances, credit and guarantees to directors.

The Takeover Panel and FSA are respectively responsible under statute for setting takeover rules and listing and disclosure rules. BERR is responsible for the general corporate disclosure regime. Current rules are kept under review and regularly updated in line with market developments.

Written Questions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer Question 120846, on domestic taxation and house prices in Northern Ireland, tabled by the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar on 6 February. [158075]

Jane Kennedy: The hon. Member's question was transferred from the Treasury to the Northern Ireland Office. I understand that the former Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Neath (Mr. Hain), said in his reply of 19 February that the matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* individual voluntary agreements were recorded in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [158120]

Mr. McFadden: The table shows the number of bankruptcies and individual voluntary arrangements in England and Wales for financial years 1996-97 and 2006-07.

	Bankruptcy orders	*Individual voluntary arrangements*
1996-97	21,058	4,441
2006-07	64,610	47,975

Notes:
Figures are not seasonally adjusted.

Bankruptcy: Elderly

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Suffolk aged 60 years or over declared themselves bankrupt in each year since 1997. [156767]

Mr. McFadden: Bankruptcy statistics broken down by age as well as by region are currently only readily available on the basis of the locations of official receivers offices (each of which cover a group of county courts where the cases are heard and the courts having jurisdiction over these), and for the years 2000 through to 2006.

The table provides estimates of numbers of individuals aged 60 years and over declared bankrupt in the regions considered to be closest to those requested, but they should not be treated as completely accurate statistics because date of birth is not recorded for all bankruptcy cases over the period covered and also because regional statistics based around the jurisdictions of official receivers are not consistent with county or country level geographies.

Estimated numbers of bankruptcy orders, individuals aged 60 and over 2000 to 2006

	Bankrupts aged 60 years and above by geographical area			
	England and Wales	*England*	*Anglia*	*Ipswich*
2000	973	924	137	22
2001	1,068	1,027	143	18
2002	1,289	1,249	182	23
2003	1,637	1,566	233	23
2004	2,149	2,059	296	25
2005	3,126	3,042	471	38
2006	4,796	4,622	720	72

Notes:
1. Anglia region covers the following OR offices: Cambridge, Ipswich, Northampton, Norwich, St. Albans, Southend-on-Sea.
2. Ipswich's OR office covers the following county courts: Sudbury, St. Osyth, Ipswich, Colchester and Clacton, Braintree.

Conditions of Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what provisions of the Warwick Agreement, which have not been implemented, he plans to implement. [158679]

Mr. McFadden: The Government remain committed to fulfilling their manifesto over the course of this Parliament. The Government's employment relations strategy, "Success at Work", was published in March last year and sets out our plans for delivering these commitments within the wider context of the labour market and Better Regulation agenda.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [156996]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 822W.

The guidance covering the conduct of official business during a general election was last issued in May 2005. This guidance, and other relevant procedures and processes, are kept under constant review by Departments so that they are ready to be put in place when a general election is called.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were employed by his Department and its predecessor on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158317]

Mr. Thomas: The average number of people employed by the predecessor to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, in each of the last five years, is as follows:

	Civil servants permanent	*Others*
2002-03	4130	29
2003-04	3750	456
2004-05	3846.5	419
2005-06	3302.4	211.4
2006-07	3085.5	134

Derelict Land: South East Region

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many hectares of brownfield land were *(a)* reclaimed and *(b)* redeveloped by the South East England Development Agency in the last year for which figures were available; and what the annual target range was for that indicator. [158116]

Mr. Timms: SEEDA is on target to remediate over 200 hectares of brownfield land over our three year corporate plan period 2005-08, which is within our target range for this output. A shortfall in 2006-07 was caused by delays with delivery of some large projects, which will create a surplus against the target range in 2007-08. SEEDA does not hold a specific record of when brownfield land is developed.

Brownfield land remediated in the South East by SEEDA

	Target range	*Hectare Actual*
2005-06	72-120	101
2006-07	75-125	13
2007-08	34.5-57.5	—
Total	181.5-302.5	—

Energy: Meters

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what date domestic consumers will be entitled to request a free visual display meter from their energy companies; and if he will make a statement. [158577]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government propose to require companies to provide display devices at the request of electricity customers for a two-year period from 2008. It is currently consulting on this and other proposals, and will take final decisions following that consultation.

Microgeneration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the value of the Merton rule to the UK's microgeneration industry in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [159364]

Malcolm Wicks: In line with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement 22 on Renewable Energy, some 120 local planning authorities have set targets for the use of on-site renewable energy in new developments. As recognised by our Microgeneration Strategy, such policies play an important role in stimulating the renewables industry and create a market for microgeneration technologies. The first authority to formalise the policy was the London borough of Merton. While we have not estimated the monetary value of Merton style policies, I know that the microgeneration business regard them as an important driver for their market.

Post Offices: Temporary Employment

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the use of agency staff by the Post Office is in line with regulations relating to the Employment Act 2003. [157808]

Mr. McFadden: To date the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate has not received any information to suggest that the regulations governing employment agencies, the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003, are not being complied with by Royal Mail.

Royal Mail has given assurances that it fully complies with the requirements of the legislation regarding employment agencies.

Postal Services: Competition

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact of the manner in which Postcomm has imposed the universal service obligation on the profitability of *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* Royal Mail's competitors; and what comparison he has made with the process of liberalisation in other EU countries. [158756]

Mr. McFadden: Assuring the provision of a universal service and liberalising the postal market are matters for Postcomm, the Postal Services Commission. The Regulator regularly reviews universal service provision and market conditions in both the UK and other EU member states. Its reports are made publicly available on its website at:

http:// www.psc.gov.uk.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations the Energy Minister has received from the renewable energy industry on the future of the Merton rule. [159365]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has had representations at all levels from the renewable energy industry around proposed changes to the planning system, and the future of Merton style policies. We work closely with business to ensure that relevant issues are understood and taken into consideration in the development of new policy.

Renewable Energy: Housing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the Energy Minister has held with the Housing Minister on the future of the Merton rule; and if he will make a statement. [159366]

Malcolm Wicks: We are working closely with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government developing policies in this area. Discussions on the final detail of proposed changes to planning policy are ongoing.

Severn Barrage

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether the report he commissioned on a Severn Barrage will consider the potential economic impact of the Barrage on the city of Bristol; [158649]

(2) how many locations are being considered as being potentially suitable for the Severn Barrage; [158650]

(3) whether the report he has commissioned into a potential Severn Barrage will consider all major options for renewable energy generation facilities in the River Severn including the benefits and disadvantages of the status quo; and when the report will be concluded. [158651]

Malcolm Wicks: The feasibility study, for which the detailed remit and budget are now being scoped, will consider all key aspects of a tidal barrage in the Severn Estuary, including environmental, social and economic issues. The Government are committed to taking forward the feasibility study in an open and transparent way, which will include engaging with business, environmental and community groups.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what business, environmental and community groups will be consulted with regard to the report he has commissioned on the Severn Barrage; and how such groups are being made aware of the report; [158703]

(2) what budget he has allocated for the report on the Severn Barrage. [158704]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The feasibility study, for which the detailed remit and budget are now being scoped, will consider all key aspects of a tidal barrage in the Severn Estuary, including environmental, social and economic issues. The Government are committed to taking forward the feasibility study in an open and transparent way, which will include engaging with business, environmental and community groups.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of retailers for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years old for consumption off the premises in each of the last 10 years. [156197]

Maria Eagle: The information requested on prosecutions and convictions of retailers for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years in each of the last 10 years is provided in the following table. It is not possible to identify from the data whether these sales were on or off licensed premises.

In addition to court proceedings, the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The offence was added to the PND scheme on the 1 November 2004, and there were 113 penalty notices issued for the offence in November and December of that year. Additionally, another 2,058 penalty notices were issued in 2005. Data for 2006 will be available in November 2007.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to under-age customers, England and Wales, 1995 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
1995	198	108
1996	251	119
1997	215	126
1998	311	158
1999	205	115
2000	132	56
2001	158	53
2002	170	105

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to under-age customers, England and Wales, 1995 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2003	616	419
2004	841	593
2005	1,084	772

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Covers the offences: selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises under the Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1, wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17, sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S.146 and allowing sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S.147. Sections 146 and 147 of the 2003 Licensing Act only came into effect from 24 November 2005, so data prior to 2005 is not available. The first two offences cannot separately identify on and off premises consumption although both are covered by the statutes.

Source:
RDS, Court proceedings database, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Approved Premises: Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rates are of those released from approved premises in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [158202]

Maria Eagle: No information on re-offending rates from those released from approved premises (bail or probation hostels) is available centrally.

This information could only be collated by manual checking of individual case details, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will list his Department and its predecessors *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156643]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was launched on 9 May 2007 from the merger of Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), National Offender Management service (NOMS), and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). NOMS and OCJR were part of the Home Office prior to 9 May 2007 and details of their related public bodies for 2005-06 and 2006-07 will be covered by the Home Office.

The list of Executive agencies related to DCA for 2005-06 were: HM Courts Service, HM Land Registry, the National Archives, and the Public Guardianship Office. The list of NDPBs, trading funds and public corporations for 2005-06 are included in the Public Bodies Directory 2006, published on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/publications/pdf/public-bodies/publicbodies2006.pdf

The list of Executive agencies related to DCA for 2006-07 were: HM Courts Service, HM Land Registry, the National Archives, Public Guardianship Office, and the Tribunals Service. The list of NDPBs, trading funds and public corporations for 2006-07 are included within the DCA Public Bodies Directory 2007, a copy of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The current list of agencies, NDPBs, trading funds and public corporations listed under Ministry of Justice, are published on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/organisationswesponsor.htm

Departments: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the Government's plans to increase data-sharing across Government; and whether the Government plans to amend *(a)* the Data Protection Act 1998 and *(b)* other legislation to facilitate this. [158190]

Mr. Wills: As part of the Government's Service Transformation Agreement the Ministry of Justice will lead a cross-government programme to deliver a package of measures over the next three to five years to tackle crime and terrorism, improve personalised public services, increase public safety and tackle social exclusion through information-sharing while maintaining openness and respect for citizens' privacy and access rights. No legislative changes are being considered at this stage.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department and its predecessor have issued on time limits on the right to request an internal review of a response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [158198]

Mr. Wills: Guidance on the discharge of public authorities' functions is provided in a code of practice under section 45 of the Act, which is laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor. This guidance sets the procedure for dealing with complaints, referred to as internal reviews. Any request for an internal review must be dealt with in accordance with the code of practice. It contains no specific guidance on time limits for requesters to ask for internal reviews. In response to FOI requests received by the Ministry of Justice, the requester is informed via a letter that they may ask for an internal review within two calendar months from the date of that letter. This is consistent with the time limit set out in the Environmental Information Regulations under Regulation 11(2) of 40 days to issue a complaint. Public authorities are free to decide, on a case by case basis, whether they will carry out an internal review requested after this period has elapsed.

Elections: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has *(a)* to hold further remote electronic voting pilots, *(b)* to hold further electronic counting pilots and *(c)* to extend the use of electronic voting to mainstream elections. [158200]

Mr. Wills: In the Governance of Britain Green Paper the Government set out a long-term aim to investigate the potential benefits of remote electronic voting and to take advantage of emerging communication technologies to provide increased flexibility and choice in the way people vote.

The outcomes of the May 2007 electoral pilot schemes and the subsequent recommendations of the Electoral Commission are currently being considered. I expect to be able to set out our thinking on future piloting involving remote electronic voting and electronic counting pilots in the near future.

The Government currently have no plans to extend the use of e-voting. The Government believe that piloting innovations in e-voting and e-counting have been important in order to test the potential benefits, and establish the evidential basis for future decisions to be taken on whether or not electronic voting could be used more widely in elections.

Electronic Conveyancing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expected timetable is for the full implementation of electronic conveyancing by the Land Registry. [158199]

Mr. Wills: The latest revision of Land Registry's business case for the electronic conveyancing programme estimates that the programme of work will be fully implemented in 2014-15. The programme's implementation plan is constantly reviewed and updated to ensure that each new service and product is fully tested and that customer feedback is taken on board.

Fraud: Mortgages

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of fraudulent registration in the Land Registry of ownership of another person's property and associated mortgage fraud occurred in each of the last three years. [158304]

Mr. Wills: It is not known how many applications have been made to Land Registry in each of the last three years that have resulted in a fraudulent registration, whether in respect of the ownership of land or of a mortgage on land. This is because, firstly, there may be cases that have not come to light, and, secondly, Land Registry does not presently keep a central record of all frauds that affect the register of title. Land Registry does keep a central record of all cases where it pays statutory compensation, including those which result from fraud. It is also in the process of developing a more comprehensive method of recording fraud, whether or not it results in the payment of compensation.

Any owner of land who suffers loss as a result of the registration of a forged transfer or mortgage through no fault of their own is entitled to be compensated for that loss by Land Registry.

Land Registry paid statutory compensation as a result of fraud on a total of 15 claims in 2004-05, 31 claims in 2005-06 and 24 claims in 2006-07. To put this into context, there are currently more than 21 million registered titles and, in each of the last three years, Land Registry received around 4 million applications to register transfers for value and mortgages.

General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election being held in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157052]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average price was for a *(a)* residential property, *(b)* detached house, *(c)* semi-detached house, *(d)* terraced house and *(e)* maisonette/flat in each year in England since 1991 according to Land Registry data. [158140]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry began collating this data in 1995. Information prior to this is not available. The following table provides the requested data from 1995 to present.

England average prices and volumes of sales 1995 to Q2 2007

£

	Detached	*Semi-detached*	*Terraced*	*Flat/maisonette*	*Overall average*
England					
Annual 1995	106,332	60,917	51,869	59,826	68,824
Annual 1996	109,810	62,998	54,209	64,705	72,355
Annual 1997	119,559	68,492	59,856	72,554	79,236
Annual 1998	129,879	73,992	64,805	80,380	85,829
Annual 1999	142,325	81,782	73,025	93,307	96,221
Annual 2000	165,982	91,902	83,273	110,879	110,208
Annual 2001	183,161	103,624	91,810	121,440	121,589
Annual 2002	213,246	122,144	106,053	139,657	140,952

England average prices and volumes of sales 1995 to Q2 2007

£

	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat/maisonette	Overall average
Annual 2003	246,533	142,795	119,888	151,247	158,984
Annual 2004	276,202	164,686	139,367	169,426	180,922
Annual 2005	297,285	175,848	150,796	176,114	191,823
All regions					
Annual 2006	314,600	186,889	165,048	186,852	206,146
England					
Q1 2007	329,925	192,072	171,237	196,707	212,980
Q2 2007	334,418	197,228	176,252	200,648	218,751

Source:
Land Registry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average price derived from Land Registry data was in each local authority area in England and Wales for *(a)* all homes, *(b)* flats/maisonettes, *(c)* detached homes and *(d)* semi-detached homes in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158270]

Mr. Wills: The latest available figures from Land Registry cover the period from April to June 2007 and can be found in the Libraries of the House.

Land Registry: Internet

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties are recorded by the Land Registry but not accessible on Land Registry Online. [158201]

Mr. Wills: All registered titles in England and Wales are publicly accessible via 'Land Register Online'.

Land Registry: Revenue and Customs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what access *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have to the Land Registry land database for valuation or taxation purposes. [158193]

Mr. Wills: HM Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency have no automatic access to Land Registry's land database other than that which is available to business users of the electronic service 'Land Registry Direct'.

Land: Registration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment the Land Registry has made of the number of properties or items of land which are not recorded by the Land Registry. [158139]

Mr. Wills: At the end of September 2007, 61.7 per cent. of the freehold land area of England and Wales was registered with Land Registry representing just over 21 million registered titles. Land Registry estimates that the remaining 38.3 per cent. of the land area will generate around 4.5 million freehold first registrations.

Legal Aid

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of fixed legal aid fees upon not-for-profit legal aid providers; [158221]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken into the effects of the Government's legal aid reform plans upon different regions and areas of the country; if he will publish such research; and if he will make a statement; [158222]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the Government's legal aid reform plans upon *(a)* clients with severe mental health problems, *(b)* black and minority ethnic clients, *(c)* disabled clients, *(d)* clients with housing problems and *(e)* clients involved in complex children and family cases who use legal aid. [158225]

Maria Eagle: Each new fee scheme published by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) has been accompanied by an impact assessment. These are available on the LSC's website, and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Within the next few weeks, the LSC also intends to publish a combined cumulative impact assessment of the legal aid reform programme to date, including those changes due for implementation in January.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what further plans he has to meet representatives of the legal profession and other organisations with an interest or involvement in the delivery of legal aid to discuss the future direction of the Government's legal aid reform plans. [158269]

Maria Eagle: My noble Friend the Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, has met a wide range of representatives from the legal profession and others with an interest in legal aid since he became the responsible Minister. He will continue to do so over the coming months to discuss the future direction of legal aid following completion of the introduction of the new fee schemes.

Legal Aid: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received from individuals and organisations from Blackpool on the Government's legal aid reform plans. [158224]

Maria Eagle: In the past year the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor have received two such representations from the hon. Gentleman on behalf of constituents and one from the hon. Member for Blackpool, North and Fleetwood (Mrs. Humble).

Legal Aid: Fees and Charges

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to re-introduce a graduated fee system for legal aid rates in replacement of the fixed rate fee system. [158223]

Maria Eagle: The fixed fee schemes being introduced for civil, family, immigration and criminal legally aided work set fees for particular tasks or groups of tasks. Thus the fees are graduated according to the requirements of work. This move from remuneration for each hour worked to payment for each job done is an essential part of our strategy for reform of legal aid.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what amendments have been made and what recent representations he has received about the operation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement; [158333]

(2) what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [158334]

Bridget Prentice: Since the Mental Capacity Act 2005 received Royal Assent we have held a series of public consultations seeking views as we have developed the code of practice and secondary legislation to support the implementation of the Act. In addition to the formal responses to consultation we have on occasion received representations on the Act from members of the public via their Members of Parliament. Since April 2007 we have received 43 such communications asking questions or commenting on the Act's provisions.

There have been two minor changes to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to date, both of which were introduced by the Mental Health Act 2007. The first made a minor amendment to section 20(11)(a) of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to correct a drafting error by replacing the word "or" with "and". The second amended section 49 of the Act to clarify the occasions when it is not necessary to appoint an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate.

In addition the Mental Health Act 2007 contains provisions that will amend the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to introduce new safeguards to address the issues raised in the European Court of Human Rights judgment on 5 October 2004 in the case of HL *v.* the United Kingdom.

A number of pieces of secondary legislation that prescribe the detail of how the Act will operate have been laid before Parliament and have come into force as of 1 October 2007. In addition the Office of the Public Guardian has produced a wide range of forms, guidance and other information related to the operation of the Act. The Department's Mental Capacity Implementation Programme and the Office of the Public Guardian have also regularly informed stakeholders and customers of progress implementing the Act via update newsletters.

I have laid a table in the House Library today providing a list of the main secondary legislation, forms and guidance and newsletters produced by the Department to support the implementation of the Act. Further information may be produced in the next 12 months as required.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many spaces in prisons in England and Wales are expected to be withdrawn in each of the next five years. [158348]

Mr. Hanson: There is a planned rolling programme of refurbishment of accommodation across the prison estate. This allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken while having no significant net change on the number of places in use. Annually this means that between 1,500 and 2,000 places are out of use at any one time for essential work. We are not currently planning to withdraw any further accommodation in addition to these places.

Prisoners: Age

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in prison of each ethnic group are *(a)* 18, *(b)* 19, *(c)* 20, *(d)* 21, *(e)* 22, *(f)* 23, *(g)* 24, *(h)* 25, *(i)* 26, *(j)* 27, *(k)* 28, *(l)* 29, *(m)* 30, *(n)* 31, *(o)* 32, *(p)* 33, *(q)* 34 and *(r)* 35 years old. [158643]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the population in prison establishments in England and Wales aged 18-35 by ethnic group as at 31 August 2007:

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other	Not stated, Unrecorded and 1991 census codes	All
Age							
18	1,645	129	121	358	21	7	2,280
19	2,242	182	167	482	46	9	3,128
20	2,358	167	216	495	36	15	3,288
21	2,380	155	226	513	35	11	3,321

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other	Not stated, Unrecorded and 1991 census codes	All
22	2,296	134	269	471	51	23	3,244
23	2,253	104	274	510	47	19	3,207
24	2,213	120	263	488	49	33	3,166
25	2,176	106	284	516	60	33	3,175
26	2,175	103	305	474	44	23	3,124
27	2,133	119	291	480	59	36	3,118
28	2,112	104	255	487	50	25	3,034
29	1,819	82	260	431	41	48	2,652
30	1,683	73	249	405	46	16	2,471
31	1,689	73	187	377	42	13	2,381
32	1,694	49	187	333	45	18	2,325
33	1,626	69	174	350	37	6	2,262
34	1,598	42	159	344	32	19	2,195
35	1,536	57	143	309	23	19	2,088

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1227-8W, on accident and emergency departments, whether the advice on catchment population size applies to West Sussex. [157445]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not issued guidance stating that accident and emergency departments should cover a given catchment population.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency services that are responsive to people's needs.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Age

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age was for patients admitted to accident and emergency units in hospitals in the West Sussex primary care trust geographical area in the latest period for which figures are available. [157013]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held by the Department in the format requested. However, the following table shows the count of finished admission episodes and the mean (average) age for patients admitted via accident and emergency with a primary care trust (PCT) of responsibility of West Sussex PCT. The PCT of responsibility is the PCT with whom the patient is registered and has commissioning responsibility for the patient.

Count of finished admission episodes and mean age of patients admitted via accident and emergency with a primary care trust (PCT) of responsibility of West Sussex PCT for 2005-06: National health service hospitals—England

Finished admission episodes	15,492
Mean age (years)	54.5

Notes:
Admission methods:
21—Emergency: via accident and emergency (A and E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
28—Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another healthcare provider
Finished admission episodes:
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Data quality:
Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
(HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Accident and Emergency Departments: West Sussex Primary Care Trust

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact on travel times to emergency facilities in West Sussex Primary Care Trust in the event of the relocation of accident and emergency facilities away from Worthing Hospital. [157019]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with other local stakeholders and their strategic health authorities (SHAs) to make assessments of current and future health needs and to commission services accordingly. South East Coast SHA has advised officials that in this case West Sussex PCT has carried out the assessment.

The hon. Member may wish to approach the PCT directly on this matter.

Ambulance Services: South East Coast Strategic Health Authority

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what evidential basis the South East Coast strategic health authority describes as a myth the proposition that patients' lives will be at risk if it takes longer for the ambulance to transport them to accident and emergency as described on its website http://www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk. [157010]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for the local national health service. South East Coast strategic health authority has advised officials that the evidence obtained comes from several academic sources and has been a theme in a number of national publications.

We would encourage the hon. Member to contact the chief executive of the lead NHS organisation in this matter which is West Sussex primary care trust.

Ambulance Services: West Sussex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average *(a)* response time for emergency ambulance call-outs and *(b)* time before admission to hospital following emergency call out was in West Sussex primary care trust in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [157440]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on average response time and time before admission to hospital is not available. The closest equivalent measures of average response time are percentage of response times within eight minutes and 19 minutes.

Information on percentage of response times within eight minutes and within 19 minutes is available in tables 6 and 7 of the "Ambulance Services for England 2006-07" report.

This information is available for 2002-03 to 2006-07 for each Ambulance Service Provider in England. Data for 2006-07 are not directly comparable to data for earlier years due to the re-organisation of Ambulance Service Providers in 2006.

Data for West Sussex are not available; however, Sussex on a whole is shown. Complete Sussex data are available until 2005-06 and only for quarter one in 2006-07 due to the re-organisation.

The "Ambulance Services for England 2006-07" report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2006-07

Data are not available on time before admission to hospital as timing stops when an emergency vehicle arrives at the scene of the incident.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage primary care trusts to ensure that pharmacies offer chlamydia testing kits as part of the chlamydia screening programme. [156791]

Dawn Primarolo: Chlamydia screening programme areas are encouraged to engage a range of screening venues to participate in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, including pharmacies.

In addition to this, the Department contracted Boots to pilot the potential of community pharmacies as locations for chlamydia screening. Screening started on 14 November 2005. To date, nearly 43,000 screens have been undertaken with a positively rate of around 8 per cent. This pilot is being independently evaluated by TNS Healthcare.

In support of commissioners, the Department is working with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the national health service to develop a national template for a chlamydia screening local enhanced service through the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many 16 to 24-year-old *(a)* males and *(b)* females were tested for chlamydia infection as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme broken down by primary care trust in each year since 2003-04; and what proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds this represented in each year; [156793]

(2) how many tests for chlamydia infection have been undertaken in the 16 to 24-year-old age group in the year 2007-08 to date *(a)* in England and *(b)* broken down by primary care trust; and what percentage of 16 to 24-year-olds this represents in each case. [156794]

Dawn Primarolo: For the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, as at March 2007, there were 220,147 females and 49,993 males between the ages of 16 to 24 who provided a primary care trust (PCT) postcode of residence, who were tested for chlamydia in England. PCT data for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been placed in the Library.

Information is not currently available by PCT or by the number of tests undertaken within genito-urinary clinics. The number of diagnoses of uncomplicated chlamydia infection in 16 to 24-year-olds in genito-urinary clinics in England by strategic health authority and sex for 2006, is given in the following table.

Strategic health authority	*Gender*	*Number of diagnoses*
East Midlands	Male	2,473
East Midlands	Female	3,454
East of England	Male	2,184
East of England	Female	3,304
London	Male	4,468
London	Female	6,619
North East	Male	1,774
North East	Female	2,196
North West	Male	4,723
North West	Female	6,121
South Central	Male	1,771
South Central	Female	2,681
South East Coast	Male	1,515
South East Coast	Female	2,041
South West	Male	2,563
South West	Female	3,084
West Midlands	Male	2,476
West Midlands	Female	3,265
Yorkshire and the Humber	Male	3,304
Yorkshire and the Humber	Female	4,434
England	Male	27,251
England	Female	37,199

Notes:
1. Data are only available up to the calendar year 2006.
2. Data are not available at the PCT level.
3. Data on the number of test for chlamydia infection are not available.
4. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
5. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with several co-infections and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
6. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Sources:
1. KC60 returns.
2. Health Protection Agency.

Chlamydia: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the average cost of delivering and processing an individual chlamydia screening test. [158477]

Dawn Primarolo: "Modelling the Healthcare costs of an opportunistic chlamydia screening" programme research published in 2004 using data from a pilot study undertaken between 1999-2000 in Portsmouth and Wirral within the National Chlamydia Screening programme, estimated the costs per screening offer, testing episode and positive result. This information is given in tables 1 and 2.

A more recent article "The health care and patient costs of an proactive chlamydia screening programme: the Chlamydia Screening Studies (ClaSS)", published in 2007, identifies costs for register-based screening (rather than opportunistic screening which is used currently within the NCSP) but comes up with very similar average costs to the 2004 article.

Table 1: Estimated average costs of a chlamydia screen—excluding partner management costs

Item	*Estimated average cost (£)*
Screening offer	14.18
Testing episode	20.57
Positive episode	27

Table 2: Estimated average costs of a chlamydia screen—including partner management costs

Item	*Estimated average cost (£)*
Screening offer	14.88
Testing episode	21.83
Positive episode	38.36

Copies of the research have been placed in the Library.

Contraceptives: Prescriptions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on (i) the effectiveness and (ii) the safety of the Mirena contraceptive device; whether he has any plans to make this contraceptive device available on NHS prescription; and if he will make a statement. [158309]

Dawn Primarolo: Mirena is an intrauterine device (IUD) that releases a medicine, levonorgestrel, directly into the uterus. It is authorised for contraception, reduction of heavy menstrual bleeding (menorrhagia) and protection from endometrial hyperplasia during oestrogen replacement therapy. Since Mirena first became available in the United Kingdom women have been able to obtain it through the national health service.

The Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA), together with independent expert advice for the Commission on Human Medicines is responsible for ensuring that medicines, including Mirena, have met appropriate standards of efficacy, safety and quality before they are granted a marketing authorisation and for ensuring that the benefits of treatment continue to outweigh the risks post authorisation, as further evidence emerges.

In addition to efficacy studies conducted by the marketing authorisation holder, Schering Health, prior to grant of a marketing authorisation, the Department has funded a number of studies to evaluate the effectiveness of Mirena (mainly in the indication of menstrual bleeding). These include the ongoing ECLIPSE randomised controlled trial in 1,200 women with menorrhagia.

The MHRA monitors the safety of all medicines, including Mirena, by evaluating data including adverse reaction reports received through the Yellow Card Scheme, published data, company studies and safety reviews, and information from other regulatory authorities. The benefits associated with Mirena are currently considered to outweigh the risks in its licensed indications.

The safety of Mirena was recently subject to European review and this has lead to a recommendation to clarify advice about the recognised risks of ectopic pregnancy and uterine perforation. As a precautionary measure, Mirena will be contraindicated in women with progesterone-dependent cancers. The product information for health professionals is being updated to reflect this advice.

The marketing authorisation holder is planning two studies: one to compare the risk of breast cancer in Mirena users with the risk in copper IUD users and users of other hormonal contraceptives and the other to compare the risk of uterine perforation in Mirena users with that in copper IUD users.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157000]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156736]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold detailed records of laptops, mobile telephones and personal digital assistant (PDA) devices provided specifically to Ministers since 1997. However, the policy is to provide Ministers with one laptop, one mobile telephone, and one PDA each, where they have declared a requirement for such equipment. This equipment is usually new but may be re-allocated

equipment depending on age and condition of the device. When a Minister leaves the Department the equipment is returned for re-allocation.

Following this year's Cabinet reshuffle, the six current Ministers have been allocated a total of five laptops, one mobile phone and four Blackberry devices which have dual mobile phone and PDA functionality. The team of Ministers before the reshuffle were allocated four laptops, five mobile phones and four Blackberry devices.

Departments: Marie Stopes International Conference

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the Ministers from his Department who will be *(a)* attending and *(b)* speaking at the Marie Stopes International Conference being held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on 23-24 October; whether his Department will be contributing (i) direct funding, (ii) informal support and (iii) personnel; whether there are restrictions on the use of these contributions; whether officials from his Department will (A) attend and (B) participate; if he will place in the Library any material produced for the conference by his Department; what discussions his Department has had with the Department for International Development on this conference; and if he will make a statement. [158310]

Dawn Primarolo: No Ministers from the Department of Health are attending or speaking at the Marie Stopes International Conference being held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on 23-24 October 2007.

The Department has contributed no funding, informal support or personnel to the event.

Three officials from the Department will be attending the event and will participate in breakout sessions along with other conference delegates.

No materials have been produced for the conference by the Department.

Ministers from both the Department and the Department for International Development were invited to speak at the conference. There was correspondence between the Departments about attendance but due to business and travel pressures neither Minister was able to attend.

Drugs: Licensing

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to allow the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to undertake appraisals of medicines prior to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency granting them a product licence. [158461]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Single Technology Appraisal process, NICE can already start to conduct an appraisal of a medicine when its marketing authorisation is imminent. However, NICE is unable to publish its final guidance until the medicine has received its marketing authorisation.

Health Services

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential impact on health outcomes of instructions to consultants by primary care trusts to reduce by 40 per cent. follow-up appointments. [158155]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* We are not aware of any blanket instructions by primary care trusts (PCTs) to consultants to reduce follow-up by 40 per cent. As good practice we would expect PCTs to be working with primary and secondary care clinicians to identify areas where redesign of the patient pathway can eliminate clinically unnecessary appointments, thereby speeding up and improving the patient experience. But this must be taken forward on the basis of clinical appropriateness.

Health Services: Education

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS bodies on contributing to health awareness weeks; and if he will make a statement. [158425]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not issue formal guidance to national health service bodies on contributing to health awareness weeks. Participation by individual NHS organisations in such events is arranged at local level.

Where the Department is directly involved in organising awareness weeks, for example National Breastfeeding Awareness Week, it will promote the event to health care professionals and make resources available for use in local activities. For National Breastfeeding Awareness Week, the Department has provided resources such as posters and leaflets.

Where the Department supports awareness weeks organised by third parties it will work with major stakeholders to promote the event to health care professionals through newsletters and other existing channels.

Healthcare Purchasing Consortium: Finance

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the Healthcare Purchasing Consortium spent in 2006-07; and what it is forecast to spend in 2007-08; [158675]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings achieved within the NHS by the Healthcare Purchasing Consortium in 2006-07; and what estimate he has made of the expected equivalent figure for 2007-08. [158676]

Mr. Bradshaw: The spend by the NHS Healthcare Purchasing Consortium on strategic sourcing activity for 2006-07 and expected forecast for 2007-08 is as follows:

	Expenditure (£)
2006-07	5,163,000
2007-08	5,913,500

The savings achieved by the NHS Healthcare Purchasing Consortium for member trusts during 2006-07 and expected forecast for 2007-08 is as follows:

	Savings (£)
2006-07	19,100,000
2007-08	26,900,000

Herbal Medicine: EC Law

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the numbers of herbal products currently on sale in the United Kingdom which will require registration under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive if they are to remain on the market; by what date applications for registrations must be made to ensure continuity of supply; and by what date the products will become illegal if not successfully registered; [157225]

(2) how many applications for registration have been received by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency; and how many positive decisions the Agency has taken to register herbal products under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [157226]

(3) what assessment he has made of the number of herbal products which are likely to become unavailable to specialist retailers as a result of the inability or reluctance of manufacturers to submit applications for registration of such products under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and if he will make a statement; [157227]

(4) what steps are being taken by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to maximise the opportunities afforded under the Traditional Herbal Medicines Products Directive and other legislation to allow the continued availability of long-established herbal products whilst maintaining appropriate safety standards. [157231]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has so far received applications for traditional herbal registration in relation to 29 products from a total of nine different companies. Five registrations have been granted and the other 24 applications are under assessment. In the light of discussions with individual companies, the MHRA expects steady growth in the number of applications received and registrations granted. The rate of build up of the scheme is reflective of the extent to which many companies needed to acquire expertise, for example in the manufacture of herbal medicines to systematic quality standards, before they could be in a position to submit applications.

Under provisions in Directive 2004/24 /EC, unlicensed herbal medicines legally on the United Kingdom market at 30 April 2004 under section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968 received transitional protection until 30 April 2011. Following discussions with industry and the former Better Regulation Task Force the MHRA decided not to require companies to notify the agency of products for which transitional protection was claimed. Accordingly, there is no estimate of the number of products on the UK market being sold legally under section 12(2) but which cannot legally be placed on the market after 30 April 2011.

We do not believe it is realistic to specify a date by which applications need to be made in order to secure continuity of supply. Time taken by the MHRA to assess applications depends on a number of factors including the quality of the application and how quickly the applicant responds to queries raised by the MHRA. The MHRA is giving extensive help to the industry through individual company meetings. Guidance to industry has stressed the importance of companies progressing their applications now if they wish to ensure continuity of supply.

Hospitals: Petitions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he was *(a)* informed and *(b)* given sight of the recent petition from Surrey residents on the future of hospital services in the county; and if he will make a statement. [156913]

Dawn Primarolo: I responded to the petition on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 17 July 2007.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which industries he has deemed essential in the event of an influenza pandemic; and what support will be provided to them by the Government. [156771]

Dawn Primarolo: Whether it would be necessary to consider particular industries as essential in the event of an influenza pandemic is kept under review. As part of that process we will consider the results of the public engagement programme, designed to increase the Government's understanding of public attitudes to pandemic preparedness, that is planned for autumn 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what total expenditure was on research into pharmaceutical interventions for use in the event of an influenza pandemic from *(a)* his Department's research and development budget, *(b)* the Medical Research Council and *(c)* other sources of public funding in each year since 1997-98. [156773]

Dawn Primarolo: Many pharmaceutical interventions that would be used in an influenza pandemic (such as antiviral drugs and antibiotics) are also used for other purposes, and research conducted for such purposes would inform our response in an influenza pandemic. Research on seasonal influenza vaccines is also relevant to the development and use of vaccines for use in pandemic influenza.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number concerned with influenza are available on the national research register at:

www.nrr.nhs.uk.

The Department has also provided support from its research and development budget to a number of projects relevant to pharmaceutical interventions in an influenza pandemic.

Over the next five years, the Department of Health has committed, through the National Institute for Health Research, £2.59 million to projects related to vaccines and immunity in the context of influenza. In December 2005, the Medical Research Council announced a £13.5 million initiative for research relevant to pandemic influenza. A number of other publicly funded bodies also support research relevant to pandemic influenza.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Home Department on the 25 per cent. clinical attack rate assumed for planning purposes in the Home Office's consultation document Planning for a possible influenza pandemic—a framework to manage deaths—consultation, published on 30 August 2007; what his latest estimate is of the most likely clinical attack rate in the event of an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [156775]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department meets regularly with Home Office officials to discuss planning for pandemic influenza. The United Kingdom's plans are based on a range of attack rates from 25 per cent. up to a reasonable worst case of 50 per cent. This range is reflected in the draft Home Office guidance 'Planning for a possible influenza pandemic—A framework for planners preparing to manage deaths'.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in developing a clinically-based algorithm for use by call handlers in the event of an influenza pandemic. [156776]

Dawn Primarolo: Development of the clinically-based algorithm for use by call handlers is now being led by NHS Direct; the algorithm is due to be tested in the last quarter of 2007.

Influenza: Vaccinations

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* each strategic health authority, *(b)* each primary care trust and *(c)* England will be eligible for the free influenza vaccine this winter; and if he will make a statement. [157235]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are not collected centrally for each strategic health authority or each primary care trust. We estimate that 14.2 million people are eligible for the influenza vaccine in England.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many influenza vaccination doses *(a)* are available and *(b)* will be available this winter to those eligible for the free winter influenza vaccine in each (i) strategic health authority, (ii) primary care trust and (iii) England; and if he will make a statement; [157236]

(2) how many doses of influenza vaccination are available in 2007 for *(a)* strategic health authorities, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* doctors surgeries to purchase this winter; and if he will make a statement. [157237]

Dawn Primarolo: The UK Vaccine Industry Group has agreed to make over 15 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine available this winter for the United Kingdom. So far, over 4.4 million doses have been delivered. The information is not available by strategic health authority or primary care trust.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of eligible pensioners who receive influenza vaccinations. [158003]

Dawn Primarolo: We announced our seasonal influenza campaign on 28 September, incorporating a number of strategies aimed at encouraging people aged 65 years and over to receive their flu immunisation. The campaign incorporates:

national TV advertising;

advertising in national and regional newspapers and magazines, including ethnic media;

advertising on pharmacy bags;

work with voluntary organisations and commercial stakeholders such as the Alzheimer's society, AFTAID, Arthritic Association, British Heart Foundation, Lloyds Pharmacy, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Superdrug and Morrison's pharmacists.

The Chief Medical Officer also wrote to all general practitioners with details of this year's flu vaccination programme in his letter of 30 March 2007. This provides surgeries with a number of months to plan their vaccination programme.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to issue guidance to NHS trusts on how they should prioritise their staff for receiving a pandemic-specific vaccine in the event of an influenza pandemic. [158462]

Dawn Primarolo: The pandemic vaccination strategy will be determined by an assessment of the strength of the virus, and its impact on the population. As this assessment can only take place once the virus has emerged, specific advice on the vaccination of any part of the population, including health care workers, can only be issued at that point.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he will issue guidance to employers on the stockpiling of clinical counter-measures for use in an influenza pandemic, with reference to his letter sent to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire, dated 2 October 2007, reference PO00000234688. [158469]

Dawn Primarolo: No central guidance has been issued to employers wishing to stockpile clinical countermeasures. Employers who are considering this as part of their business continuity planning should do so in conjunction with their own occupational health advisers. The National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic includes information in relation to stockpiling and use of clinical countermeasures. Work is also progressing on testing a clinical algorithm/protocol as part of the process for providing access to antivirals.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Pay

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid to Rose Gibb, the former chief executive of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust, upon the termination of her employment. [158719]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: The employment of staff, clinicians and managers within the national health service is a matter for local NHS Boards. In the case of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells we have asked the NHS trust to withhold any severance payment to the former chief executive prior to the Department considering legal advice on the matter.

Maternity Services: Sussex

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born while their mothers were in the process of travelling to *(a)* Brighton hospital and *(b)* Worthing hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [157256]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Medical Equipment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1226W, on medical equipment, when he plans to take a decision as to whether to procure and stockpile face masks centrally. [156750]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is progressing work to ensure that the appropriate face masks are made available to health care and social care workers during a pandemic. An announcement will be made in relation to this issue as soon as it is possible to do so.

NHS: Reorganisation

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what briefing Lord Darzi received on the proposals to downgrade Worthing and Chichester hospitals before his recent interview on GMTV. [157255]

Ann Keen: Lord Darzi is aware of the current consultation on the future of health services in West Sussex.

NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of backlog maintenance was in the NHS in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07 *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by NHS organisation. [158472]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total backlog maintenance for England is provided in the following table.

	Total backlog maintenance (£ million)
1997-98	2,836
1998-99	3,027
1999-2000	3,108
2000-01	3,242
2001-02	3,378
2002-03	3,517
2003-04	3,193
2004-05	3,142
2005-06	3,684
2006-07	3,740

Information for national health service organisations has been placed in the Library.

The data are as provided by the national health service and have not been amended centrally. Their accuracy and completeness is the responsibility of the provider organisation. Trusts that have not provided data or have provided a zero response have been omitted for brevity.

Investment to reduce backlog maintenance will be prioritised locally based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. The majority of the backlog maintenance relates to low priority work, which will be undertaken through ongoing maintenance programmes or replacement of facilities. Where higher risks are present, work will be undertaken as a priority.

Obesity: Fertility

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on links between obesity and infertility; and if he will make a statement. [158308]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a small number concerned with the relationship between obesity and fertility are available on the national research register at

www.nrr.nhs.uk.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC is not currently funding research specifically relating to the causal links between obesity and fertility. As part of a portfolio of more general research relating to the various causes of infertility however, the MRC has recently allocated £300,000 for the following research project on polycystic ovarian syndrome that links the symptoms of obesity and infertility:

Dr. W. C. Duncan, University of Edinburgh—Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome: modelling development, phenotype and progression using a developmental paradigm.

Obesity: Pupils

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the medical testing of school children for obesity is conducted on a parental opt-out basis; and if he will make a statement. [157253]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Child Measurement programme (NCMP) gathers population level surveillance data and informs local planning and service delivery, and allows for the analysis of trends in growth patterns and obesity.

The NCMP is conducted on an opt-out basis. Our guidance states clearly that:

the privacy and dignity of the child is safeguarded at all times and the measurement is done sensitively in a private setting

height and weight information should be gathered with minimal physical contact by health professionals (as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998).

parents receive a letter explaining the purpose of the programme, and provide them with the opportunity to withdraw their child from it.

Patients: Smoking

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of hospital beds occupied by smokers. [156770]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not collected centrally.

According to the latest data available, smoking kills an estimated 87,000 people a year in England, about one-fifth of all deaths, and leads to an extra 560,000 admissions to hospital.

Source:

Information Centre Statistics on Smoking 2006 and relates to 2004-05.

This bulletin is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/smoking07

Primary Care Trusts: Elderly

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list by primary care trust area the areas in England with the highest proportion of residents over the age of retirement per head of population for the latest year in which figures are available. [157012]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding Primary Care Trust areas in England with the highest proportion of residents over the age of retirement per head of population for the latest year in which figures are available (157012).

The latest population estimates available by primary care trust are for mid-2005. Table 1 shows the percentage of the population over retirement age by Primary Care Organisation. These estimates will be revised shortly.

Estimates for mid-2006 and revised estimates for mid-2002 to mid-2005 will be published on 23 October 2007. These estimates are being revised to include improved international migration estimates. ONS has made improvements this year to the methods used for distributing international migrants to local areas as part of its "Improving Migration and Population Statistics" work programme. Please note therefore that the mid-2005 estimates provided here are not comparable with the revised 2005 mid-year estimates by Local Authority.

Table 1: percentage of the population of primary care organisations[1] in England over the age of retirement in mid-2005 in descending order

	Percentage of the population over state pension age[2]
England	19
Dorset	27
Hastings and Rother	26
Torbay	26
East Sussex Downs and Weald	26
Isle of Wight National Health Service	26
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	25
Devon	24
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	24
Norfolk	24
North Lancashire	24
North East Essex	23
Herefordshire	23
West Sussex	23
Bournemouth and Poole	23
Somerset	23
North Somerset	23
Lincolnshire	23
East Riding of Yorkshire	23
Sefton	22
Shropshire County	22
Blackpool	22
Cumbria	22
South East Essex	22
Northumberland	21
North Yorkshire and York	21
Eastern and Coastal Kent	21
Wirral	21
Western Cheshire	21
Suffolk	21
North Staffordshire	21
Redcar and Cleveland	21
South Tyneside	21
Gloucestershire	21
North Tyneside	20
North Lincolnshire	20
Solihull	20
Havering	20
Dudley	20
Derbyshire County	20
Gateshead	20
Bath and North East Somerset	20
Worcestershire	20
Central and Eastern Cheshire	20
Bassetlaw	20
Stockport	20
County Durham	20
Wiltshire	20
Nottinghamshire County	20
Hampshire	20
North East Lincolnshire	20
Walsall Teaching	20

Table 1: percentage of the population of primary care organisations[1] in England over the age of retirement in mid-2005 in descending order

	Percentage of the population over state pension age[2]
Darlington	20
Doncaster	19
South Staffordshire	19
Bromley	19
Wolverhampton City	19
Warwickshire	19
Leicestershire County and Rutland	19
Surrey	19
Barnsley	19
Stoke on Trent	19
Hartlepool	19
West Kent	19
West Essex	19
Rotherham	19
Trafford	19
Sandwell	19
Sunderland Teaching	19
Bexley	19
Sheffield	19
Plymouth Teaching	19
Wakefield District	18
Derby City	18
Central Lancashire	18
Mid Essex	18
South Gloucestershire	18
East Lancashire	18
Salford	18
Calderdale	18
Halton and St. Helens	18
Buckinghamshire	18
East and North Hertfordshire	18
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	18
Bury	18
West Hertfordshire	18
Knowsley	18
Warrington	18
Cambridgeshire	18
South West Essex	18
Tameside and Glossop	18
Birmingham East and North	18
Bolton	18
Leeds	18
Coventry Teaching	17
Middlesbrough	17
North Tees	17
South Birmingham	17
Newcastle	17
Oxfordshire	17
Kirklees	17
Northamptonshire	17
Oldham	17
Brighton and Hove City	17
Hull	17
Bedfordshire	17
Liverpool	17
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	17
Portsmouth City Teaching	17
Peterborough	17
Harrow	17
Swindon	16
Bradford and Airedale	16
Bristol	16
Southampton City	16
Barnet	16
Telford and Wrekin	16
Enfield	16
Medway	16
Hillingdon	16
Berkshire West	15
Sutton and Merton	15
Redbridge	15
Barking and Dagenham	15
Blackburn with Darwen	15
Berkshire East	15
Nottingham City	15
Croydon	15
Leicester City	15
Luton	15
Richmond and Twickenham	14
Kingston	14
Manchester	14
Brent Teaching	14
Greenwich Teaching	14
Ealing	13
Hounslow	13
Kensington and Chelsea	13
Waltham Forest	13
Milton Keynes	13
Westminster	12
Lewisham	12
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	12
Hammersmith and Fulham	11
Southwark	11
Wandsworth	11
Haringey Teaching	11
Islington	11
Camden	11
City and Hackney Teaching	11
Lambeth	10
Newham	10
Tower Hamlets	10

[1] These data are on boundaries that were in place on 1 October 2006, and include 148 primary care trusts and four care trusts.
[2] State pension age includes males aged 65 and over and females aged 60 and over.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Smoking: Fines

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the likely number of fines to be issued for non-compliance with the public smoking ban in the first year of operation in England. [158187]

Dawn Primarolo: From the commencement of smokefree legislation in England on Sunday, 1 July 2007 levels of compliance have been very high.

Levels of compliance are fully in line with the Department's expectations set out in the regulatory impact assessment for the legislation which are based on the experiences of other jurisdictions that have introduced comprehensive smokefree legislation.

Based on data collected from local authorities across England 98.7 per cent. of premises and vehicles required to be smokefree inspected in August were found to be fully compliant with the law. Full information is published at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/thefacts/national-compliance-data.html

A small number of formal enforcement actions have been taken by local authorities, with 45 fixed penalty notices issued (26 in one area) and three court actions having been taken in the period 1 July to 31 August 2007.

Smokefree legislation is supported by over three-quarters of people in England and the high levels of compliance to date is an clear indication that the objective of the new law—to protect people from secondhand smoke is being met.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis West Sussex primary care trust is of the view that its share of the NHS budget will increase by 4.5 per cent. a year over the next few years from 2007-08, as stated in its consultation document "Fit for the Future: modernising healthcare in West Sussex"; whether this figure relates to real-terms increases or cash-terms increases; and if he will make a statement. [157007]

Dawn Primarolo: No decision have yet been made about the timing of revenue allocations to primary care trusts for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

The West Sussex primary care trust should be able to provide further information regarding the figures quoted in its consultation document, "Fit for the Future: Modernising Healthcare in West Sussex", if required

Worthing Hospital

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if *(a)* he, *(b)* Lord Darzi and *(c)* the Chief Executive of the NHS will visit Worthing Hospital. [157840]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State for Health, Lord Darzi and David Nicholson, the NHS chief executive all make regular visits to national health service facilities across the country. Invitations are of course considered on a case by case basis and will depend upon diary pressures and parliamentary business. Therefore, if the hon. Member wishes to, he may send a formal request to Ministers.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the proposal from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges that facilities at Worthing Hospital in West Sussex Primary Care Trust be downgraded. [157016]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for local primary care trusts in conjunction with other local stakeholders and their strategic health authorities (SHAs) to make assessments of current and future health needs and to commission services accordingly.

South East Coast SHA has advised officials that it has provided a response to the report which can be found at the SHA's website:

www.southeastcoast.nhs.uk/news/Newsrelease24.09.07.asp

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 18 October 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Leader of the House what guidance her Office follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158589]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons' Office aims to respond to hon. Members' correspondence within 15 working days. During August 2007 this was achieved for 91 per cent. of MPs' and Peers' correspondence received. For the year 2006, the target was achieved for 95 per cent. of MPs' correspondence and 97 peers of Peers' correspondence.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House how many websites her Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running her Department's websites in the last five years. [157905]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons Office operate one website and has done so since June 2003. From April 2006 until March 2007 the annual cost of running the website was £7,050. From April 2007 until October 2007 the cost has been £4,112.50. Following a Machinery of Government change, information prior to 2006-07 financial year is available only at disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by her Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157906]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons Office website has received a total of 6,894,877 hits since 1 January 2007.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157903]

Helen Goodman: Following a machinery of government change, detailed information on expenditure incurred in the 2006-07 financial year is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff are seconded to her Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157904]

Helen Goodman: There are currently 20 members of staff who are seconded to the Cabinet Office from outside of Government. This figure includes five members of staff from the Houses of Parliament. The Houses of Parliament do not form part of the civil service. The following table lists (a) the outside body from which each has been seconded from and (b) length of each secondment:

Outside body	*Number of staff*	*Length of secondment (Years)*
Houses of Parliament	1	2
	4	<1
Arts Council England	1	<1
Essex Police	1	1
Hays	1	3
London Fire Brigade	1	<1
Macclesfield Council	1	1
Metropolitan Police	2	3
Middlesex University	1	<1
National Centre for Social Research	1	1
The Fourth Sector	1	<1
Price Waterhouse Coopers	1	<1
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)	1	<1
Surrey County Council	1	<1
Bank of England	1	2
The Work Foundation	1	<1

[1] From start date to current date

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what percentage of questions tabled for answer on a named day received a substantive answer on the day due in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by answering Department. [158051]

Helen Goodman: Individual Departments are responsible for keeping their own records on the timeliness of answers and providing this information to the House when requested by the Public Administration Committee or through Members' questions. To provide this information centrally could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The last available figures of the Leader of the House of Commons Office relate to the 2005-06 session. These show that 100 per cent. of the 71 named day questions tabled were answered on the date specified.

Members: Pensions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* debates and *(b)* votes there have been on the subject of hon. Members' pensions since 1997. [157367]

Helen Goodman: The following debates and votes relating to Members' pensions have been identified by the Journal Office as having taken place on the Floor of the House since 1997:

5 July 2001 (implementation of the elements of the 2001 SSRB report relating to MPs' pensions):

Motion on Parliamentary Pensions (divisions on amendments moved by hon. Members for Bournemouth, West (Sir John Butterfill) and for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Dr. Harris)).

3 November 2004 (implementation of the elements of the 2004 SSRB report relating to MPs' pensions):

(1) Motion on Parliamentary Pensions (Contribution Rate);

(2) Motion on Parliamentary Pensions (Survivor Benefits and Early Retirement).

In addition, there was a debate in a delegated legislation Committee on 23 July 2002 on the Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (S.I., 2002, No 1807) (followed by a division).

Parliamentary Scrutiny: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to improve scrutiny of European Union legislation. [157578]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Lady to my answer during oral questions on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 19.

TRANSPORT

A12: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on upgrading the A12 in Essex to motorway standard; and if she will make a statement. [158421]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State is not aware of any recent representations for upgrading the A12 to motorway standard. Following the recommendations of the M25 to Ipswich multi-modal study in 2002, the Secretary of State asked the Highways Agency to carry out further appraisal for upgrading the A12 between the M25 and Colchester.

In July 2006 the Secretary of State accepted the advice of the East of England's Regional Assembly on regional transport investment priorities, not to prioritise the A12 for funding in the period up to 2015-16. It will be for the Region to reconsider in the review of the Regional Funding Allocations due in 2008.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the cost of upgrading the A12 in Essex to motorway standard. [158422]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The A12 all purpose trunk road in Essex is a mixture of dual two and three lane carriageways of varying standard. There are no proposals to upgrade the A12 to motorway standard and consequently no assessment work has been undertaken. Hence no costs for upgrading the A12 to motorway standard are available.

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what Government research has been undertaken into the independent mobility needs of *(a)* people with mental health problems, *(b)* partially sighted people, *(c)* people with severe learning and/or behavioural difficulties and *(d)* people with severe autism to determine their eligibility for a Blue Badge; [158032]

(2) whether her Department has issued, on behalf of all four UK Administrations, guidance specifying the criteria for further assessment of applicants for Blue Badge parking permits; [158033]

(3) whether children under two years old whose medical needs require the transport of bulky equipment at all times have been made eligible under the Blue Badge disabled parking scheme; [158034]

(4) what progress her Department has made towards ensuring nationally consistent eligibility criteria for those subject to further assessment under the Blue Badge disabled parking scheme; [158035]

(5) whether assessments of independent mobility for the Blue Badge parking scheme are routinely undertaken by a health professional other than the applicant's GP; [158041]

(6) whether, where entitlement to a Blue Badge is linked to receipt of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance, the period of issue is linked to that of receipt of the allowance; [158042]

(7) what progress has been made towards establishing a national, centrally funded, database of Blue Badge holders; [158043]

(8) whether Blue Badge applicants automatically entitled by their receipt of the higher rate mobility component of the disability living allowance are required to give explicit consent to the sharing of personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998. [158044]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Research into the mobility needs of certain disability groups who may not be eligible for the Blue Badge under the current eligibility criteria, was completed earlier this year. This included people with severe autism, mental health difficulties, learning and/or behavioural difficulties and people who are partially sighted. The findings were considered as part of the strategic review of the scheme, which reported to me in September and will contribute to the publication of a comprehensive Blue Badge reform strategy by April 2008.

All English authorities will be issued with revised guidance later this year. As responsibility for the scheme is devolved in the UK, the Administrations for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are producing their own guidance separately.

Following changes I announced recently, children under the age of two, who are dependent upon bulky medical equipment, have been eligible for a badge under the scheme from 15 October 2007.

The Department for Transport recognises the need to promote greater consistency of assessment. This is a key theme which is being addressed through our

strategic review and forthcoming Blue Badge reform strategy. The revised local authority guidance, due for publication later this year, will also help to clarify the assessed eligibility process.

The medical assessment practice varies between different local authorities. We are committed to actively promoting good practice guidance in this area and are engaging with the Department of Health on this issue.

From 15 October 2007, certain badges are now linked to the receipt and issue period of both the higher rate mobility component of the disability living allowance and war pensioners' mobility supplement.

Research into the feasibility of a national database was completed earlier this year. The findings were considered as part of the strategic review of the scheme, which will contribute to the publication of a comprehensive Blue Badge reform strategy by April 2008.

All local authorities have a duty to comply with the Data Protection Act 1988. The revised local authority guidance, due for publication later this year, will provide additional advice on this area and a model data protection statement for Blue Badge applicants to complete.

Car Hire: Regulation

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislation covers the regulation of car hire companies; and when the last review of these provisions was undertaken. [154747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport is not aware of any legislation relating specifically to the regulation of car hire companies.

However, the Disability Discrimination (Transport Vehicles) Regulations 2005 [SI 2005/3190], which came into force on 4 December 2006, do cover "hire vehicles" (the definition of which is relevant to vehicles hired out by car hire companies).

The 2005 regulations effectively disapplied certain exemptions contained in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in respect of particular types of vehicle, including "hire vehicles". As a result, car hire companies (like other vehicle-hire firms covered by the 2005 regulations) can no longer discriminate against disabled persons when providing vehicles.

Departments: Fixed Penalties

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157919]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies maintain the policy that road traffic violations such as parking tickets and speeding fines remain the responsibility of the individual, and are not reimbursed from public resources. Three of the Department's agencies record penalties incurred by their drivers on official business, and these amounted to a total of 17 in financial year 2006-07. No financial cost was incurred by the Department.

The exception to this is the Government Car and Despatch Agency which pays parking fines incurred operationally in circumstances where the overriding security requirements of high profile passengers or secure or sensitive documents necessarily dictate the choice of parking location. 73 such fines were paid in financial year 2006-07, at a total cost of £5,898.02.

Metronet: Insolvency

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the debts left to the public sector following Metronet's failure to fulfil its contract with London Underground; and how she expects those debts to be met. [157848]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for Metronet's Administrators, working with Transport for London and London Underground, to identify the best route out of Administration. In advance of their conclusions, it continues to be inappropriate to speculate on any public sector financial impacts and, therefore, how such impacts would be handled.

Railways: Performance Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the performance of First Capital Connect services between Peterborough and London over the last five years. [158961]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since the commencement of the First Capital Connect (FCC) franchise on 1 April 2006, the Public Performance Measure (PPM) Moving Annual Average for the Great Northern route, which includes services between Peterborough and London, has increased from 89.56 per cent. to 92.35 per cent. in the most recent complete operating period. FCC recently achieved a period PPM of 96.09 per cent. on the GN route, which is the highest achieved since franchising in the 1990s.

Railways: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail passengers travelled on railway lines in Wales in each year since 1992; and if she will make a statement. [158971]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the services provided within Wales and across the border by Arriva Trains Wales. Details of the number of passengers who have travelled on railway lines in Wales each year since 1992 are not held by the Department for Transport.

Statistics on numbers of passengers on the railway network are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Library or from their website: www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway carriages were used on railway lines in Wales in each year since 1992; how many seats were provided in those carriages in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [158972]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the services provided within Wales and across the border by Arriva Trains Wales. Details of the number of carriages that were used on railway lines in Wales in each year since 1992 and the number of seats provided in those carriages are not held by the Department.

Road Traffic

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which local authorities have submitted bids for funding from the congestion element of the Transport Innovation Fund in each year since its creation; and which were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected; [158106]

(2) which local authorities have applied for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund; which have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected; and what form of congestion charging, road pricing or workplace parking taxes the successful ones are proposing. [158107]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Money from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) will become available from 2008-09. Ten areas have been awarded pump-priming funding to support the development of Transport Innovation Fund packages that address local congestion problems combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport. So far one substantive TIF bid for funding has been received. The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) have submitted a business case for Transport Innovation Fund funding for a package to tackle congestion by combining transport investment and road pricing. Details are available on http://www.gmfuturetransport.co.uk/. We are currently assessing the case.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were on the A14 in Suffolk in each year since 1997; and how many involved drivers under the age of 21 years in each case. [159209]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Number of reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk; 1997-2006

	Accidents (a)	*Fatalities (b)*
1997	128	7
1998	123	2
1999	122	8
2000	138	8
2001	138	10
2002	157	5
2003	128	3
2004	143	5
2005	150	4
2006	119	6

Number of reported personal injury road accidents involving drivers under the age of 21 and resulting fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk: 1997-2006

	Accidents (a)	*Fatalities (b)*
1997	21	1
1998	26	1
1999	21	1
2000	22	0
2001	26	1
2002	27	1
2003	29	0
2004	28	0
2005	28	0
2006	28	0

Taxis

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provisions control whether hackney carriages outside London may collect customers after being hailed off the street, outside a taxi rank. [158108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The law allows the drivers of licensed hackney carriages to accept immediate hirings from passengers either when the cabs are standing at a rank or in response to a hailing in the street. The drivers are, however, only permitted to accept such hirings while located in the area for which they are licensed. If a driver drops off a passenger outside his own licensing area he cannot respond to a street hailing (or stand at a rank) until he returns to his own licensing area.

Vehicles: Insurance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the number of uninsured vehicles in the Greater London area. [159008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our latest estimate for the United Kingdom is that in 2005 there were about 2.1 million licensed vehicles being driven uninsured (about 6.5 per cent. of the UK vehicle fleet). Information is not held by area.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which beneficiaries of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund received more than £50,000 in any one year in each year since the inception of the levy. [158548]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund database contains details of overall amounts paid out to projects from April 2004 onwards, but we do not have annual payments recorded centrally. I have arranged for a list of beneficiaries that have received over £50,000 from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, since April 2004, to be placed in the Library of the House.

Agriculture: Floods

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to applying for EU emergency funds under Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to compensate farmers for flood damage to crops and livestock. [154039]

Mr. Woolas: Articles 87 and 88 of the European Community Treaty do not provide access to European Union (EU) emergency funds. The categories (which also include the guidelines and regulations that have since been formulated on this issue) relate to aid, funded by individual member states rather than the EU, that we are allowed to pay in certain circumstances (state aid).

The UK has submitted an application to the EU Solidarity Fund in the wake of this summer's flooding. However, the purpose of the fund is to assist member state Governments with costs that arise from the relief efforts and those of returning infrastructure to the condition it was in before the disaster occurred. It is unlikely that compensation to private business, including farmers, for losses arising from the floods would be eligible. As part of the application process, the Government will agree with the Commission how any support received from the Solidarity Fund will be used.

Battery Hens: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the release of the report on the progress of the transition towards the ban on battery cages for egg production due to come into effect in 2012; [157719]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the Laying Hens Directive will have on the number of eggs imported into the UK from outside the EU; and if he will make a statement; [157720]

(3) what assessment he has made of the state of readiness of the British egg industry to implement the Laying Hens Directive, with particular reference to the banning of battery cages for egg production from 2012. [157718]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) recently met with Commissioner Kyprianou and stressed the urgency of publishing the Commission's report. The report will consider the various systems for keeping laying hens, their health and environmental impact, socio-economic implications and effects on the Community's economic partners.

A regulatory impact assessment was produced in 2002 when Council Directive 99/74/EC was transposed into domestic legislation. This will be updated in the light of the Commission's report and will consider such aspects as the impact of the 2012 conventional cage ban on the industry and trading patterns. Currently, over half of UK egg production is from caged birds although, during the last few years, there has been a shift in production methods in the UK from conventional cages to enriched cages and alternative systems.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the report Badgers and Cattle TB: Final Report of the Independent Scientific Group was peer reviewed; who peer reviewed it; what feedback was received from the peer review; and if he will make a statement. [157271]

Jonathan Shaw: The Independent Scientific Group's (ISG) Final Report as whole has not been peer-reviewed. However, most of the work has been published in leading, independently peer-reviewed scientific journals. Appendix J of the Report (available on the DEFRA website and in the Libraries of the House) summarises their published scientific papers and other important published material.

Formal independent audits of core aspects of the trial were undertaken at appropriate intervals. These included the field procedures of surveying, social group delineation and badger removal, welfare aspects of the way trapped badgers were dispatched, post-mortem protocols and bacteriological culture procedures, as well as procedures for data collection, handling and statistical analysis. Appendix E of the Report lists the programme of audits undertaken throughout the trial.

The ISG webpage, which lists their publications, can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/isg/isgpublications.htm

and reports of the independent audits that have been carried out can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/culling/p5aud.htm.

Carbon Emissions: Personal Income

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has commissioned research on the carbon footprint of those on low incomes compared to those on high incomes. [158538]

Mr. Woolas: As part of its pre-feasibility study into personal carbon trading, the Government will be looking at, among other things, carbon footprints of different groups to assess the equity impact of personal carbon trading.

This will follow initial work conducted by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) in November 2006, entitled "A Rough Guide to Individual Carbon Trading". One of the findings of this report was that, in general, those on lower incomes tend to emit less carbon dioxide than average, while those on higher incomes tend to emit more carbon dioxide than average. A personal carbon trading system might have the potential to achieve emissions savings in a fairer way than a carbon tax.

A recent piece of work by the CSE, commissioned by DEFRA to help inform development of the post-2011 supplier obligation, further illustrates the correlation between income level and carbon emissions. This study also draws out important variations within income bands, showing that some low-income households have very high consumption levels and some high-income households have very low consumption levels.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy that *(a)* any carbon budget he sets out for 2008 to 2012 will require a lower level of emissions in that period than in the preceding five years and *(b)* that every future budget period will be set at a level lower than its predecessor. [158343]

Mr. Woolas: As set out in the draft Climate Change Bill, the independent Committee on Climate Change will advise the Government on the emissions reduction pathway to achieve the 2020 and 2050 targets. The Committee will advise specifically on the level of carbon budgets, taking into account where carbon savings can be achieved across the economy and the optimum balance between domestic action and international trading in carbon allowances.

Its first task will be to advise the Government on the first three five-year carbon budgets by 1 September 2008.

Carbon Sequestration: Peat

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the merits of natural peatlands as net absorbers of carbon dioxide; and what measures are in place to protect peatlands to combat greenhouse gas emissions. [157979]

Mr. Woolas: Peatlands are a significant store of carbon in the UK and require protection. A substantial proportion of these are found in Scotland. However, in terms of absorbing carbon dioxide, the potential is limited, due to their slow growth.

DEFRA is currently seeking to develop its understanding of the risks to this carbon store and to investigate the best means of protecting peatlands and the biodiversity they support. The Department is in the process of setting up a cross-governmental project that is intended to form part of DEFRA's new soil strategy for England. This will ensure that DEFRA and its agencies co-ordinate their activity on peat soils and liaise effectively with the devolved Administrations as well as identifying best practice for protecting peatlands and putting in place the appropriate measures.

However, to a large extent, land managers are already protecting peatlands for their biodiversity value under agri-environment schemes and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Around 230,000 hectares of peatlands are currently managed under agri-environment agreements in England.

Cattle: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on progress towards a cattle vaccine for *(a)* foot and mouth disease, *(b)* blue tongue and (c) bovine TB. [157365]

Jonathan Shaw: A large number of foot and mouth vaccines for a range of different strains are already held in the UK vaccine bank at the Merial production facility in Pirbright This is the only facility licensed to produce foot and mouth disease vaccines in the UK. As soon as we identified the precise strain of the circulating virus we ordered 300,000 doses to be made ready for use. This vaccine is licensed for use in cattle and other species and the production was cleared by the Health and Safety Executive and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

However, DEFRA has decided not to vaccinate at this time as the epidemiological evidence concludes that the risk of the infection spreading out of Surrey is very low. Therefore, the slaughter of animals on infected premises and dangerous contacts remains the most effective way of eradicating the disease.

There is currently no suitable vaccine for the bluetongue serotype 8 available; as this serotype only emerged in Europe last year. However, we are aware of several companies who are developing such a vaccine for use in cattle and sheep and we are in urgent discussions with them to do what we can to encourage this work. We are also developing a plan with the industry as to how a vaccination campaign would work once a vaccine becomes available, is licensed, safe and effective for use; we hope this will be next year.

While progress is being made on the development of a TB vaccine for cattle, vaccination as a practical TB control measure is still some way off. DEFRA-funded research has successfully identified lead candidate vaccines and we are now starting to look at delivery protocols. Research is also continuing on tests to differentiate infected from vaccinated animals (DIVA tests). It is important to note that development of a successful TB vaccine cannot be guaranteed, and that if a vaccine can be developed it will only form one part of a balanced package of measures to control the disease.

Departments: Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Ministry of Defence Ministers or officials on restrictions on civilian leisure activities on Ministry of Defence land as a result of foot and mouth disease. [157071]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is in regular contact with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and, during the recent foot and mouth outbreaks, we have had a range of discussions. During the initial outbreaks, DEFRA was in daily contact with the MoD to clarify public access arrangements and countryside activities in high risk areas.

During the initial outbreaks in August, at the request of DEFRA, officials from Defence Estates, the relevant MoD organisation, assisted Surrey county council in closing MoD public land within the protection zone.

In line with DEFRA guidelines, MoD has not imposed any public access or leisure restrictions on their land in low risk areas during the recent outbreaks.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157002]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 15 October 2007, *Official Report* column 823W.

Domestic Wastes: Microprocessors

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has produced or commissioned on the use of radio frequency identification chips in rubbish bins. [158220]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2097W.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of public satisfaction with local authority waste collection services in areas with *(a)* alternate weekly collections and *(b)* weekly collections. [155700]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not carry out its own monitoring of satisfaction with waste services. It is the responsibility of local authorities to do this at. At present, they are required under the local government performance framework to carry out a survey every three years as part of the best value performance indicators. Further information about these indicators is available from the local government performance website at:

www.bvpi.gov.uk

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on the size of wheelie bins for household rubbish collection; [158096]

(2) what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on the sizes of wheelie bins for household rubbish collection. [158113]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has not given any guidance on this issue.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) issued guidance on alternate weekly collection ("Alternate Weekly Collections: Guidance for Local Authorities") which has a short section on the size of wheelie bins. WRAP has issued no other guidance on this issue.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 156-7W on domestic wastes: waste disposal, to my hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), what estimate has been made of the proportion of household rubbish collected for recycling that is not recycled in local authorities which do not have material recycling facilities. [158138]

Joan Ruddock: No specific assessment has been made by my Department on the proportion of household rubbish collected for recycling not recycled in local authorities which do not have material recycling facilities.

The challenging recycling and composting targets set for all local authorities in England mean that it is in the authority's interest to recycle or compost as much of the viable material collected. Local authorities without local facilities may either use facilities in other areas, or send recyclables for reprocessing outside the UK.

When reporting data to WasteDataFlow, local authorities should specify the amount of waste collected for recycling that is subsequently rejected at the point of collection, at a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), or at the gate of the reprocessor. The data reported to WasteDataFlow are used by the Environment Agency and DEFRA to monitor the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research, advice or guidance the consultancy Eunomia has produced at public expense on levying charges on households for providing containers which will hold domestic rubbish. [158247]

Joan Ruddock: Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd. have conducted research for DEFRA through the project "Modelling the Impact of Household Charging for Waste in England". This report contains a literature review and modelling work, which includes sack-based schemes and bin volume schemes. Both of these involve charging households for containers which will hold domestic rubbish.

They have not provided any policy advice or guidance.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice or guidance *(a)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme and *(b)* his Department has provided to councils on levying charges on households for providing containers which will hold domestic rubbish. [158248]

Joan Ruddock: No advice or guidance have been provided by the Waste and Resources Action Programme or DEFRA on these issues.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether, under his Department's proposals to allow local authorities to charge for the collection of household waste, waste collection authorities will remain under an obligation to collect rubbish from households which did not pay the charges. [158403]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA is considering responses to a recent consultation on the issue of whether local authorities should be given a new legal power to introduce non income-raising ('revenue neutral') incentive schemes for minimising waste. This would be a power not a duty, and the aim of any such scheme would be to incentivise behavioural change. This would not be a charging scheme for the collection of waste, as any payments required would be aimed at influencing behaviour change and not on the cost of the collection service.

The duty of waste collection authorities, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, to collect household waste (subject to certain exemptions) would not be altered by the Department's proposals.

Floods: Insurance

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the insurance industry on the provision of *(a)* adequate flood defences by the Government and *(b)* insurance cover in areas vulnerable to flooding; and if he will make a statement. [159097]

Mr. Woolas: Ministerial colleagues, officials and I are in regular contact with the insurance industry and the Association of British Insurers. We are working together with the mutual aim of ensuring continued widespread availability of flood insurance cover through the Association's Statement of Principles. This sets out commitments by insurers on the availability of flood insurance, associated with commitments by the Government on effective management of flood risk.

Floods: Risk Assessment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Environment Agency's definition is of the probability of *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high flood risk in terms of the frequency in years at which an area is likely to flood. [158411]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency uses three categories for defining the probability of a flood. They are low, moderate and significant.

Low—the chance of flooding each year is 0.5 per cent. (1 in 200) or less.

Moderate—the chance of flooding in any year is 1.3 per cent. (1 in 75) or less but greater than 0.5 per cent. (1 in 200).

Significant—the chance of flooding in any year is greater than 1.3 per cent. (1 in 75).

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on food waste collection, including which types of food can and cannot be placed in food waste buckets. [158216]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) offers advice to local authorities on arrangements for food waste collection. This advice has been developed on the basis of published literature, a number of projects commissioned by WRAP and current local authority experience of providing food waste collection services. The general advice is that if local authorities are considering collecting food waste they should consider collecting it separately and on a weekly basis. Where food waste is collected separately, WRAP advises that local authorities provide appropriate containers to householders (typically a kitchen caddy and a rigid external container) to make the separation of food waste easier for residents and to encourage them to take part in the service.

The types of food waste suitable for collection will depend on the treatment facilities available to a local authority. All food waste collected separately must be treated at enclosed facilities (for example, in-vessel composting or anaerobic digestion plants) that meet the requirements of the Animal By-Products Regulations and are approved by the State Veterinary Service. Typically this will include cooked and uncooked food, dairy products, meat, fish and fruit/vegetables.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what time period elapsed between the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease and cessation of work on dangerous viruses at the Pirbright laboratories. [157521]

Jonathan Shaw: Foot and mouth disease was first confirmed on a premises in Surrey on 3 August. As soon as the circulating virus strain was identified as the same strain as the one held at the Pirbright site on 4 August, DEFRA and Merial agreed that, because of the large quantities involved, the use of live virus would be voluntarily suspended by Merial. The case for a similar suspension at the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) was also considered on 4 August and has been kept under active review since then. Drawing on advice from the Health and Safety Executive, some modification has been made to the agreed areas where IAH can work with live virus. However, our judgment to date has been that, because of the small volumes of live virus handled by IAH and the additional measures the Institute has put in place, complete suspension is not justified.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals have been culled *(a)* on infected premises, *(b)* on the basis of slaughter on suspicion and *(c)* as a result of dangerous contact following the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. [158644]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* A total of 2,160 animals have been compulsorily culled as a result of the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. A breakdown of the statistics is shown as follows:

Current premises status	*Number of premises*	*Number culled and disposed*[1]
Infected premises[2]	8	1,578
Dangerous contacts	7	195
Slaughter on suspicion[3]	2	387

Current premises status	Number of premises	Number culled and disposed[2]
Totals	17	2,160

[1] Figures as of 12 October 2007 and may be subject to change.
[2] Includes slaughter on suspicion and dangerous contact premises subsequently confirmed as infected premises.
[3] Excludes those cases which were subsequently confirmed as infected premises.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many infected premises livestock has been slaughtered in relation to the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease; and how many individual holdings make up the number of infected premises. [157931]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Livestock has been culled on eight infected premises during the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease. These eight infected premises comprised a total of 24 individual locations where susceptible livestock was culled.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which premises livestock was culled during the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease on the basis of *(a)* being on infected premises, *(b)* the policy of slaughter on suspicion, *(c)* dangerous contact and *(d)* being on contiguous premises. [157932]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* DEFRA policy is not to name individual affected premises. In addition to the eight infected premises there have been two premises on which animals were culled as part of the policy of slaughter on suspicion, and a further seven premises where animals were culled as dangerous contacts. There are no premises where animals have been culled solely on the basis that they were contiguous to an infected premises.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* infected premises, *(b)* slaughter on suspicion premises, *(c)* dangerous contacts and *(d)* contiguous premises were tested during the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease for signs of the disease; and how many in each category returned positive tests. [157933]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Animals have been tested at all premises where culling has taken place for disease control reasons. At least one animal tested positive for foot and mouth disease at all eight of the infected premises. No animals at the two remaining slaughter on suspicion and seven dangerous contact premises tested positive for foot and mouth disease.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Exports

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals have been slaughtered as a consequence of the ban on exports because of foot and mouth disease. [157700]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* DEFRA holds figures only for animals culled for disease control purposes. It is estimated that the number of animals (cattle, sheep and pigs) slaughtered for consumption in England during August and September this year is 14 per cent. below the same period in 2006 (equivalent to around 455,152 animals). This figure includes animals slaughtered in England but originating in Scotland and Wales.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Hunting

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reasons trail and drag hunting is prohibited in foot and mouth disease low risk areas; [157068]

(2) whether there are biosecurity hazards associated with trail and drag hunting; [157069]

(3) when he will allow trail and drag hunting on foot and mouth disease *(a)* low risk and *(b)* risk areas. [157070]

Jonathan Shaw: The current ban on trail and drag hunting across the whole of Great Britain is a legal requirement under the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) (England) Order 2006 and was also required by previous legislation dating back to 1983.

Epidemiological evidence from the current outbreak suggests that the disease could have been transmitted by fomites on vehicles or other bodies and could have been carried from areas containing infected animals to previously 'clean' areas.

The risk of horses, in particular, transporting the virus in this way is increased. This is because they are often kept on the same premises as susceptible animals, transported in vehicles used for moving susceptible animals, have contact with susceptible animals on neighbouring farms, or are handled by persons who also have contact with susceptible animals.

There are, therefore, tight controls on the types of activities such as trail and drag hunting involving horses.

Our many licensing priorities in both the FMD risk and low risk areas are constantly under review with consideration from the farming industry and experts. Any decision to allow trail and drag hunting under licence will be based on an assessment of the disease risk. We will continue to keep restrictions under review with the aim of lifting them as quickly as possible consistent with our overriding objective of eradicating FMD.

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review regulations that forbid trail and drag hunting and stalking in low risk foot and mouth areas such as Northumberland, Cumbria and Yorkshire. [157549]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The current ban on trail and drag hunting and stalking across the whole of Great Britain is a legal requirement under the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) (England) Order 2006 and was also required by previous legislation dating back to 1983.

Our licensing priorities are constantly under review with consideration from industry and experts. Any decision to allow trail and drag hunting will be based on assessment of the disease risk. We will continue to keep restrictions under constant review with the aim of lifting them as quickly as possible consistent with our overriding objective of eradicating FMD.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Public Inquiries

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to establish an independent public inquiry into its handling of the foot and mouth outbreaks of 2007. [157420]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Following the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in August and September 2007, the Prime Minister has asked Dr. Iain Anderson to look at the Government's response to the outbreak. Dr. Anderson chaired the previous independent inquiry into the 2001 outbreak. The terms of reference for the Foot and Mouth Review 2007 are:

To conduct a review of the Government's handling of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease during 2007, in order to:

i. Establish whether relevant points from the Lessons to be Learned Report on the 2001 outbreak were implemented;

ii. Establish whether new lessons might be drawn from the handling of the 2007 outbreak; and

iii. To make recommendations by the end of 2007 to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the future handling of foot and mouth disease outbreaks.

This is the most effective and efficient way to learn the lessons of this outbreak and respond accordingly. We have no plans to establish a public inquiry.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Scotland

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the National Farmers Union of Scotland on the outbreaks of (i) foot and mouth and (ii) blue tongue disease; [157150]

(2) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Ministers or officials of the Scottish Executive to discuss the outbreak of (i) foot and mouth and (ii) blue tongue disease; and if he will make a statement; [157151]

(3) what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have received from (i) Ministers and (ii) officials of the Scottish Executive on compensation available to farmers in Scotland following the outbreak of (A) foot and mouth and (B) blue tongue disease; and if he will make a statement; [157152]

(4) what representations he has received from the National Farmers Union of Scotland on compensation for losses suffered as a result of the foot and mouth outbreak. [157153]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* We are working closely with the Scottish Executive and others to co-ordinate our disease control response throughout the United Kingdom. DEFRA has had a range of discussions with the Scottish Executive throughout the current outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue, at both ministerial and official level. The National Farmers Union (NFU) of Scotland have participated in discussions with officials from DEFRA and the Scottish Executive. We have also received a range of representations from the Scottish Executive and the NFU on these issues, including compensation.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Sheep

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates he has made of the number of fat lambs which remain unsold due to foot and mouth restrictions. [157276]

Jonathan Shaw: It is estimated that the number of fat lambs slaughtered for consumption in England, during August and September this year, is 21 per cent. below the same period in 2006. This equates to around 370,000 animals and it includes lambs slaughtered in England but originating in Scotland and Wales.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure price support is provided for farmers affected by the foot and mouth outbreaks of 2007. [157419]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Under the Animal Health Act 1981, compensation is paid for animals that are compulsorily slaughtered to prevent the spread of disease. For foot and mouth disease (FMD), the Act requires that compensation is paid at the full market value before the animal became infected. This is determined by an approved valuer at the time of slaughter. Compensation is also paid for other items, such as farm equipment and feed, where these are seized because they are considered to be contaminated; this includes such things as milk. However, it is a long established principle that the Government do not meet the costs of consequential losses, which must be borne by the industry. Government seek to minimise the risk of market impacts, particularly by encouraging public understanding of the issues.

We are taking a risk-based and staged approach to easing movement restrictions when the evidence indicates that it is appropriate to do so. This is the best way to facilitate the return to normal working for the industry. We are working in partnership with the industry, but eradication of foot and mouth disease remains our priority.

There is a role for the Government in partially meeting the immediate need to encourage higher consumption at home and to provide an alternative market for products previously exported. On 8 October, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) announced a support package worth £12.5 million to stimulate the market and assist those livestock farmers worst affected by restrictions imposed as a result of FMD, *Official Report*, column 39. The package includes £8.5 million to provide

support for our hill farmers; £1 million to assist farmers in the FMD risk area with the cost of removing fallen stock; £2 million to promote the sales of red meat and pork domestically and in our export markets; and a donation of up to £1 million to the Arthur Rank Centre for disbursement to Farming Help charities.

Hares Preservation Act 1892

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there are plans to repeal the Hares Preservation Act 1892 in full or in part. [158628]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* DEFRA currently has no plans to repeal the Hares Preservation Act 1892 in full or in part.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what enforcement mechanisms exist to ensure that companies which fail to dispose properly of toxic waste are liable for damage caused as a result. [154589]

Joan Ruddock: The illegal disposal of waste is a criminal offence under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Individuals and companies can be liable for the offence which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both. When deciding on the severity of a sentence to impose on a company that has been found guilty of disposing of waste illegally, the court is able to take into consideration any damage caused as a result, including environmental damage.

In addition, sections 42 and 43 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 amended section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to give the courts new powers to:

(a) order an offender to pay the enforcing authority's investigation and enforcement costs, and any costs associated with the seizure of vehicles involved in the offence;

(b) require the offender to pay the Environment Agency, a local authority or the occupier or owner of land, any costs incurred in removing waste that has been illegally deposited. Clean-up costs can include removing the waste and/or taking other steps to reduce the consequences of the incident.

The Government are currently in the process of implementing the Environmental Liability Directive which is aimed at the prevention and remedying of environmental damage. This is based on the "polluter pays" principle.

Institute for Animal Health: Pirbright

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what bio-security measures are in force at the Institute for Animal Health Laboratory and the adjoining Merial Animal Health Laboratory at Pirbright to ensure that human and animal health is not affected by work being carried out there; and if he will make a statement. [158629]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* Stringent bio-security conditions have always applied to work carried out on the Pirbright site. Additional measures have now been implemented that go above and beyond those contained in the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Spratt reports. These measures are set out in the Government's response to those reports, which is available in the Libraries of the House and on the DEFRA website.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which officials in his Department have been responsible for the inspection and licensing of Pirbright laboratories in each year since 2002; and whether those officials remain in post. [157316]

Jonathan Shaw: Inspections were carried out for the Department by senior DEFRA veterinarians with specialist knowledge of laboratory containment, exotic animal diseases and the requirements for licensing laboratories under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998. Some of these officials have since left the Department, for reasons not connected with this work, while others remain in post.

Ivory

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what policy line he took at the 14th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on the sale of stockpiled ivory. [157775]

Joan Ruddock: The UK policy was, and is, that we only support the one-off sale of stockpiled ivory where the conditions originally agreed by CITES parties in 2002 have been met. At the meeting of the 55th CITES Standing Committee on 2 June 2007, immediately prior to the 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP14), it was agreed that the conditions had been met and the stockpile sale was permitted. The UK was satisfied that the conditions had been met and, therefore, supported this decision at the meeting, with the proviso that funding for the subsequent monitoring of the outcomes of the sale was secured.

At the subsequent CoP14 (3-15 June), agreement was reached by African range states that increased tonnages could be sold, including stockpiles from Zimbabwe. It was also agreed that there will be a nine year "resting" period on consideration of any further sales of ivory after the one-off sale takes place to allow the effects of the stockpile sale to be properly assessed. Some of the proceeds of the sale will be placed in an African Elephant Fund to support conservation measures across their range.

Leading up to the Conference, the UK (and EU) maintained an open position on this issue preferring the African elephant range states to debate the issue among themselves. The UK Government was pleased that agreement over such a contentious issue was finally reached and fully supported the outcome.

Land: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report

commissioned by his Department on the effect of best and most versatile land designation on planning decisions (LE0217). [158090]

Jonathan Shaw: I have arranged for a copy of this report to be placed in the Library.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of landfill tax which will be raised from waste arising from recent serious cases of flooding. [158251]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has not specifically assessed the increase in landfill tax receipts following recent serious cases of flooding.

However, we would expect only a relatively small increase in municipal waste arisings as a result of recent flooding, which would be within the normal range of variations in annual waste arisings. This should not have a long-term or significant impact on waste management costs.

Landfill: Methane

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements there are for *(a)* new and *(b)* existing landfill sites to collect methane emissions from the site and use them as an energy source. [158089]

Joan Ruddock: The EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) requires landfill gas to be collected from all new and existing landfill sites receiving biodegradable waste; landfill gas must be treated and used; and landfill gas which cannot be used to produce energy must be flared. The collection, treatment and use of landfill gas must be undertaken in a manner which minimises damage to or deterioration of the environment and risk to human health.

In this context, an existing landfill site is one which was operational on or after 16 July 2001.

Recycling: Business

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives his Department provides for local authorities to engage with local businesses to promote recycling. [157936]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The landfill tax escalator gives greater financial incentives to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. This was increased in the 2007 Budget so that the standard rate of tax will increase by £8 per year from 2008 until at least 2010-11. If private waste collectors that collect commercial waste fail to offer alternatives to landfill (such as recycling) they will find that the waste treatment services they offer will no longer be cost effective. This is an incentive for waste contractors to consider developing waste management partnerships with local authorities to provide services to local businesses.

In addition, the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme (BREW) has been developed to give money raised through the landfill tax back to business through funding resource efficiency and waste projects that will benefit business. The BREW Centre for Local Authorities was set up to help local authorities undertake a leadership role in supporting the business community to become more profitable through business resource efficiency and waste reduction.

Recycling: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what additional funding is being provided to local authorities to meet central Government recycling targets. [158115]

Joan Ruddock: The main sources of funding for local authorities' waste management services are revenue support grant (RSG) and national non-domestic rates (NNDR), distributed by central Government, and council tax. It is for local authorities to decide what proportion of this funding to invest in waste management services, including recycling. Other funding made available to authorities in England for waste management since 1997 is shown in the following table:

Funding provided

Scheme	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
						million
Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund	50	90	90	45	—	—
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	—	—	—	40	105	110
Grant to Relieve Spending Pressures on Waste	—	—	20	—	—	—
Household Incentives Pilot Scheme	—	—	—	5	—	—
Private Finance Initiative	70	100	125	130	255	280
Local Communications Fund (WRAP)	—	—	16.2	—	—	—
Behavioural Change Local Fund (WRAP)	—	—	—	—	13	

As part of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, the Government have also announced a further step change in Private Finance Initiative spending on waste, more than doubling from £280 million in 2007-08 to £700 million by 2010-11, totalling £2 billion over the three years of the next spending period.

Waste Management: Welsh Assembly Government

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the CBI's proposals for UK and Europe-wide standards on waste management. [157336]

Joan Ruddock: On 12 October 2006, the Government, in association with the devolved Administrations, published a consultation paper on the European Commission's proposal to revise the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). The Commission's proposal included a provision to enable the adoption by comitology of EU-wide minimum standards for waste management operations. A summary and analysis of the responses to this consultation is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) responded to DEFRA's consultation on the revision of the WFD. However, I am advised that DEFRA has no record of the CBI subsequently submitting proposals for UK and EU-wide standards on waste management. It follows that no discussions on such proposals have taken place with the Welsh Assembly Government.

Wood

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of methods to decontaminate surplus wood of toxic preservatives prior to being burned in commercial wood-burning furnaces or power plants. [157321]

Joan Ruddock: No specific assessment has been made by my Department of the effectiveness of methods to decontaminate surplus wood of toxic preservatives prior to being burned in commercial wood-burning furnaces or power plants.

However, DEFRA's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP) has investigated ways of diverting waste wood from landfill. This is in response to recommendation 4 of the Biomass Task Force Report to the Government, published in October 2005. DEFRA's general conclusion is that it is more cost effective to treat contaminated waste wood as a waste and to dispose of it in a Waste Incineration Directive (WID)-compliant facility than to attempt to decontaminate and burn it in commercial wood-burning furnaces or power plants as a non-waste. Such WID-compliant facilities can recover energy as electricity, or electricity and heat in the form of combined heat and power for industrial purposes.

Wood: Waste Disposal

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislative provisions apply to the safe disposal of timber treated with *(a)* copper chrome arsenate, *(b)* ammoniacal copper quaternary, *(c)* copper azole, *(d)* boron, *(e)* creosote and *(f)* pyrethroid and metal-based light organic solvent preservatives. [157976]

Joan Ruddock: All wastes must be recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes or methods which could harm the environment.

The Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) is implemented through the Waste Incineration (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002 No. 2980) and applies to the incineration of waste timber which has been treated with any of the substances mentioned.

The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) has been transposed via the Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 (as amended). One aspect of the Landfill Directive is that landfill sites have to be categorised into one of three types: hazardous, non-hazardous or inert. Hazardous and inert wastes for landfill have to meet the waste acceptance criteria destined for landfill. The criteria are limits of contaminants permitted in waste, together with testing standards and procedures that must be used. Hazardous wastes are also required to be pre-treated before landfill. From 30 October 2007, all non-hazardous and inert wastes going to landfill will also need to meet the pre-treatment requirement.

Where such waste timber, which is classed as hazardous waste under regulation 6 of the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No 894), is disposed of by means other than incineration or landfill in a facility with a capacity of more than 10 tonnes per day, the facility is subject to the integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) which is implemented through the Pollution Prevention and Control(England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000 No. 1973).

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Ministerial Responsibilities

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the reasons are for the time taken to produce the list of ministerial responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [158570]

Edward Miliband: The new "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" has been published today. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are also available in the Vote Office for hon. Members.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to appeal against the ruling of the High Court of August 2007 on impermissible donations to the UK Independence Party; and if he will make a statement. [158696]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that, on 7 August 2007, judgment was given on an application by the Commission to Westminster magistrates court under section 58 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 for forfeiture by the UK Independence Party of an amount equal to the value of certain donations the Party had accepted. The court found all of the donations in question to be from impermissible donors, but ordered the forfeiture of an amount equal in value to only some of those donations. On 21 August, the Electoral Commission commenced

appeal proceedings. The appeal is for a judicial review by the High Court of the magistrates court's decision not to order forfeiture of an amount equal in value to the remainder of the donations that were the subject of the original application. A date for the hearing has not yet been set.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were screened for breast cancer per head of the population in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [157516]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following table for 2005-06, the latest year for which figures are available. The figures are broken down by primary care trust (PCT) in Hertfordshire, along with figures for England. As the figures are for 2005-06, they are based on the previous PCT boundaries.

Primary care trust	*Eligible population*[1]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage*[2] *(Percentage)*
Dacorum	10,220	8,104	79.3
Hertsmere	6,342	4,697	74.1
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage	12,671	9,932	78.4
Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford	5,745	3,494	60.8
South East Hertfordshire	13,212	10,040	76
St. Albans and Harpenden	9,228	6,927	75.1
Watford and Three Rivers	11,488	6,916	60.2
England	3,633,181	2,756,716	75.9

[1] Although the breast screening programme now invites women aged 50 to 70, these figures cover women aged 53 to 64 as coverage of the programme is best assessed using this age range group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthday depending on the logistics of the local programme. In addition, not all programmes had extended invitations to women aged 70 for the whole of 2005-06, although all had by the end of 2005-06. Eligible population is the number of women in the resident population less those recorded as ineligible.
[2] Less then three years since last test.
Source:
Breast Screening Programme England 2005-06 (National Statistics and the Information Centre).

Contraceptives

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS per patient of *(a)* long-acting reversible contraceptives and *(b)* other forms of contraception in the next five years. [157307]

Dawn Primarolo: In October 2005 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued clinical guidance on long-acting reversible contraception (LARC). It shows that all LARC methods are more cost effective than the combined oral contraceptive pill even at one year of use. The following table shows estimated method costs (per 1,000 women) after five years of use. Cost per patient is not estimated centrally.

Method and healthcare service costs

Method	*Five year cost*
Intrauterine device	534,555
Intrauterine system	603,534
Injectable	760,600
Implant	667,275
Male condom	993,769
Combined pill	899,697

Source:
Long-acting reversible contraception, clinical guidelines, NICE, 2005

Cosmetics: Health Hazards

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the possible effects of skin-lightening products on health; and if he will make a statement; [157826]

(2) what assessment he has made of the compliance with UK regulatory and licensing requirements of skin-lightening products; and if he will make a statement. [158449]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

No such assessments have been made.

Dental Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 803W, if his Department will now collect information on dentist practices which have closed their lists to NHS patients since the inception of the new NHS dentist contract. [159034]

Ann Keen: Information on dental practices which have ceased to provide national health service services since the launch of the reforms in April 2006 is not held centrally and there are no plans to make this an additional new central return.

Information is available on the number of dental contracts offered at the start of the new system in April 2006 and the number of those contracts signed and rejected. 8,377 out of 9,428 contracts offered were signed. 2,884 of these were initially signed in dispute. By 30 June 2007, the latest date for which information is available just 223 remained in dispute. Of the disputes resolved over 99 per cent. ended in the contractor staying with the NHS. This information is held by dental contract not by dentist. A contract may cover one dentist or a whole practice.

Dental Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what spare capacity, expressed in patient numbers, is available for *(a)* under 18, *(b)* over 18 fee-paying and *(c)* over 18 charge-exempt people to register with each NHS dental practice in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [158647]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Departments: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the contracts his Department signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in 2006. [159319]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157892]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 1 September 2007, there were 61 people (57.7 full-time equivalent) seconded into the Department. The Department's main human resources information system does not show where a person has been seconded from, or the length of their secondment.

Work carried out to answer a previous Freedom of Information request suggested that virtually all secondees into the Department are from public sector organisations and anecdotally most of these are from national health service trusts or other health-related organisations. Secondments are normally for a period of up to two years.

Health Hazards: Mobile Phones

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what official response the Government *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make to the report of the findings of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme; [157200]

(2) what health advice he plans to provide to the public following the findings of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme; [157201]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Health Protection Agency on the findings of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme; whether the Health Protection Agency will be updating its advice to the public in the light of the report from the programme; and if he will make a statement; [157202]

(4) what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of current health advice on the use of mobile telephones in the light of the findings of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme; and if he will make a statement; [157203]

(5) what recent discussions his Department has had with the devolved Administrations on raising awareness of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme report and its findings. [157204]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is grateful to the Management Committee of the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme for producing the "Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme Report 2007—MTHR Programme Management Committee" published on 12 September. The report is available in the Library and at www.mthr.org.uk.

We shall also send a copy to hon. Members, as we believe it will be helpful when responding to enquiries from constituents about mobile phone technology and health.

The Health Protection Agency's (HPA) Radiation Protection Division has the responsibility of advising on radiation risk and health protection matters. In undertaking this role the HPA monitors progress in radiation and electromagnetic field health research, that is undertaken throughout the world, in order to inform its advice. The MTHR results will add to the information available to the HPA in support of that advice.

The Department's advice that is currently available in the form of leaflets and web based information will be updated in the course of the next few months in co-operation with the HPA and Health Department officials in the devolved Administrations.

Kidney Patients: Counselling

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many renal counsellors are employed in England; at which kidney units they are located and what services they provide; whether their services are provided by the NHS; how many and what proportion of kidney patients saw a counsellor in the last 12 months; what the average number of sessions with a counsellor for each patient was in that period; by what means kidney patients may access counsellors and how they are informed of their ability to do so; and whether counsellors are employed solely to aid kidney patients. [158396]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mentally Ill

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the implications of stigma surrounding mental health in England; and if he will make a statement. [157605]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department recognises that the stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental illness is a major social problem. People with mental health problems are one of the most excluded social groups in society, with fewer than a quarter in employment. They can find themselves excluded from education, health care and community participation. People with mental illness who disclose their condition can find themselves shunned by neighbours and colleagues while some do not disclose their illness to family and friends. For many people with mental illness, a diagnosis of mental illness can have a worse impact upon their lives than their symptoms.

The Department is funding a five-year programme, Shift, through the Care Services Improvement Programme to tackle the stigma and discrimination which surrounds

mental illness. Shift is working with various bodies, and its focus this year is on the media and employers. On World Mental Health day on 10 October, Shift launched guidance for employers on improving their recruitment and retention processes for people with mental health problems.

The Department and Shift are working with the mental health charity sector consortium, Moving People, which has recently won £18 million from the Big Lottery and Comic Relief to run a four-year anti-stigma and mental health promotion campaign. The details of how the Government will support this initiative, which involves Mind, Rethink, Mental Health Media and the Institute of Psychiatry, are being formulated.

Midwives: NHS Stockport Primary Care Trust

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were in training in Stockport Primary Care Trust hospitals in each year since 1997. [158000]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Myasthenia Gravis

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of services provided by the NHS for people with myasthenia gravis; and if he will make a statement. [157382]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the services provided by the national health service for people with myasthenia gravis.

Out of Area Treatment

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions he plans to make for cross-border user representation within local involvement networks to reflect situations where residents from one local authority area routinely use services within another. [159095]

Ann Keen: We recognise the need for local involvement networks (LINks) arrangements to reflect the fact that some people do use health and social care services outside the local authority area where they reside. That is why we have ensured there is appropriate provision within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, currently before Parliament, to enable LINks activities not only to relate to health and social care services provided within their local authority area, but also health and social care services provided, in any place, for people from the area. We have also included provisions which will enable LINks to work together, regionally and/or nationally, as a means of undertaking their activities.

We intend to published guidance for LINks in the spring and as part of this guidance we will explore in detail how LINks might work together to ensure cross-border representation for patients.

Palliative Care

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines there are for provision of palliative care for patients who wish to die at home; and if he will make a statement. [157995]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Three key tools—the Gold Standards Framework, the Liverpool Care Pathway and the Preferred Priorities for Care—are used as a basis for providing training for generalist staff in the principles of palliative care so that all patients at the end of life have access to high quality care.

Over the last three years we have invested £12 million in an end of life care programme to promote roll-out of these tried and tested tools, and thus promote greater choice for patients about where they are able to be cared for and die.

Latest figures show that one or more of these tools is being used in 69 per cent. of general practitioners practices, 81 per cent. of hospitals, 41 per cent. of community hospitals, 69 per cent. of hospices and 6.4 per cent. of care homes. The Department is currently developing the first ever end of life care strategy for adults, which will deliver increased choice to all adult patients regardless of their condition about where they live and die, and provide them with support to make this possible.

We have deferred publication of the strategy to allow us to take account of the important work being undertaken on end of life care at strategic health authority (SHA) level for the next stage review which will be completed in the new year. We have provided SHAs with information that we hope they will find useful and it is important that we now take account of their work to ensure that the national strategy encompasses local innovation.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what amount of funding was allocated in each primary care trust area to palliative care for patients who wish to die at home in each year since 1997. [157996]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning and funding services to meet the needs of their resident population including those for end of life care.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licences to sell alcohol were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* revoked in (i) London and (ii) England in each year since 1997 on grounds of the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years. [158807]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally.

Past and future statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not give reasons. Licences may be revoked for a number of reasons or a variety of factors, including sales to children. Prior to 24 November 2005, statistical returns did not differentiate between alcohol licences not renewed and licences revoked.

Big Lottery Fund

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 693W, on the Big Lottery Fund, whether interest is earned on this sum. [159357]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The overall balance held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) on behalf of the 13 non-Olympic distributing bodies is invested by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND).

The interest earned on this investment is shared between the 13 distributors in the same fixed percentages as income generated by the national lottery operator, Camelot, and becomes available for distribution to the good causes they support. The Big Lottery Fund receives 50 per cent. of the interest earned on the overall NLDF balance. Its share is not directly related to the size of its individual NLDF balance.

Bookmakers: Licensing

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue was collected from fees for bookmakers' premises licences in the UK in 2006-07; and what percentage of this came from independent bookmakers. [159031]

James Purnell: For 2006-07, and until 1 September 2007 when the Gambling Act 2005 was implemented, bookmakers required both a bookmaker's permit and a betting office licence. These were issued and charged for by local magistrates, under the Gaming Act 1968. Since 1 September local licensing authorities have issued premises licences. Information on revenue from this source raised by local licensing authorities, and previously by magistrates, is not held centrally. Data could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many independent bookmakers there are in the UK; and what the cost to them of *(a)* licence fees charged, *(b)* the operating licence charged and *(c)* the premises licence charged was in 2006-07. [159032]

James Purnell: Bookmakers have been able to apply to the Gambling Commission for operating licences under the Gambling Act 2005 from 1 January 2007. There is no defined category of "independent bookmaker". Total numbers of off-course bookmakers to which the Commission has issued operating licences to date are:

Category	*Operators*
A—four or fewer premises	605
B—five to 15 premises	52
C—16 to 50 premises	17
D—51 to 199 premises	4
E—200 or more premises	5

Both application fees and annual fees are charged by the Commission, in accordance with the table. In the period to 31 March 2007 it collected £56,318 in application fees from off-course bookmakers. Premises licence fees are a matter for local licensing authorities, and data are not collected centrally.

Application fees

£

	Category							
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Non-remote licences								
General betting (limited)	180	360	990	—	—	—	—	—
General betting (standard)	988	988	3,459	17,295	40,518	—	—	—
Remote licences								
General betting (standard)	—	—	—	—	—	988	3,294	16,471

Annual fees

£

	Category							
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Non-remote licences								
General betting (limited)	200	467	1,267	—	—	—	—	—
General betting (standard)	1,769	7,077	16,860	36,862	212,372	—	—	—
Remote licences								
General betting (standard)	—	—	—	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to review the system of betting licences, operating licences and premise licences issued to British bookmakers. [159033]

James Purnell: The Gambling Act 2005, which came fully into effect on 1 September 2007, places the protection of children and vulnerable people at the heart of the gambling licensing system for the first time. We have no plans to review this new framework.

British Bob Skeleton Association: Legal Costs

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of the cost of the British Bob Skeleton Association's legal action against the British Bobsleigh Association was met from the public purse or National Lottery funds via UK Sport. [158847]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport is not aware of any legal action by the British Bob Skeleton Association (BBSKA) against the British Bobsleigh Association.

UK Sport is aware of legal action taken earlier this year by the BBSKA against the Federation Internationale de Bobsleigh et de Tobogganing (FIBT). This was in the form of an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the FIBT's decision to change the rules over race licensing arrangements for skeleton athletes, without prior consultation. BBSKA used £17,000 of funding received from UK Sport to meet the costs of this successful action.

UK Sport agreed to meet this proportion of the costs because of the direct impact the decision was having on the athletes' ability to train and compete, and therefore the BBSKA's ability to deliver its performance programme. UK Sport did, however, make clear to the BBSKA that further costs associated with this legal action would need to be met from other sources of income. UK Sport is not aware of the total cost to the BBSKA of undertaking this legal action.

Casinos

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the written statement of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 2WS, on casinos, what the Government's policy is on the establishment of a supercasino in the UK. [159171]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prime Minister has asked the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to consider, with other Departments, including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, whether deprived areas can be equally well served by other forms of regeneration than a regional casino.

That work is now well under way, and the Prime Minister has asked the Secretary of State to report to him later in the autumn.

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to review the rollout of premises licences issued by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [159099]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We see no necessity to review the way in which premises licences have been introduced under the Gambling Act 2005. Applications by existing businesses could be made from 31 May 2007 and any businesses whose applications had not been determined by 1 September 2007, when the Act came into force are being permitted to operate until their applications are determined. The Department issued guidance to both the industry and licensing authorities for the transitional period. The Gambling Commission have published guidance to licensing authorities on the premises licence regime as a whole.

Gambling: EU Legislation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he last met his French, Spanish and German counterparts to discuss EU gambling legislation. [159105]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS Ministers have not had any meetings with their French, Spanish and German counterparts specifically to discuss EU gambling legislation over the past year. I am scheduled to meet with them at the next EU Sports Ministers meeting on 25 October.

However, officials from my Department keep in close contact with officials in the European Commission on developments affecting gambling.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to review the number of category B1 machines permitted in adult amusement centres. [159098]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Adult gaming centres are permitted a maximum of four category B3 machines, which have a maximum stake of one and a maximum prize of £500. There are no plans to review the number of category B3 machines that adult gaming centres can make available.

Category B1 machines have a maximum stake of two and a maximum prize of £4,000 and can only be made available in casinos.

National Lottery

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on national lottery ticket sales in *(a)* Wirral South, *(b)* Wirral, *(c)* Merseyside, *(d)* the North West and *(e)* England in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was distributed to good causes in those areas in the same period. [158016]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The national lottery operator, Camelot, does not collect ticket sales information on a constituency, district, county or regional basis, nor do they routinely collect ticket sales data based on postcodes. The most up-to-date sales data by postcode area is available in the Libraries of both Houses and provides information up to 2004.

QUEST

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Quality, Efficiency and Standards Team is still in operation in his Department. [158844]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Quality, Efficiency and Standards Team in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport was disbanded in 2002.

Rugby

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who regularly take part in rugby union games and training, including tag and touch rugby; and if he will make a statement. [159035]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the 2005-06 Sport England 'Active People' survey showed that 267,817 adults (16 years and over) regularly participated in rugby union games and training. 'Active People' regards participating at least once in the last four weeks as regular participation.

Rugby League

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to attend any of the rugby league test matches between Great Britain and New Zealand in an official capacity. [158665]

James Purnell: I will be attending the rugby league test match between Great Britain and New Zealand on 27 October in Huddersfield. I am looking forward to this unique test series which will celebrate the centenary of international rugby league competition.

Sports: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress in tackling the inequality of sports funding between men and women; what plans he has to reduce such inequality; and if he will make a statement. [158426]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures from the Taking Part survey show that on average women have lower rates of participation in sport than men. We therefore have a public service agreement to increase participation in sport by 3 per cent. by 2008, with a specific focus on priority groups with lower than average rates of participation—one of which is women.

As part of this focus to increase participation in sport by women, since 2006 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport through Sport England has funded 770 projects where women are one of the target beneficiaries. Sport England also grant aids the Women's Sport Foundation and in 2007-08 it is providing £326,148. The Sport England application process is open to all and does not discriminate by gender or any other group.

UK Sport

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many overseas conferences and events UK Sport has been involved with since 2005; how many it is due to be involved with in the future; and what the cost of such involvement was in 2006-07. [158845]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport has financially supported or helped organise six international conferences between 2005 and 2007. In addition, individual UK Sport employees have attended various overseas conferences and events as delegates or speakers since 2005.

It currently has plans to support two future events in partnership with the British Council: a PE and School Sport seminar in Brazil in February 2008 and a Dreams and Teams Young Leaders event in India in 2010 to coincide with the Commonwealth games in New Delhi.

The cost of UK Sport's involvement in 2006-07 was approximately £35,500.

UK Sport: Grants

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account UK Sport takes of recognition of national governing bodies of sports by international federations in deciding whether to fund them; and if he will make a statement. [158846]

Mr. Sutcliffe: One of the criteria for recognition of a governing body used by all the sports councils, including UK Sport, is that it is affiliated or is in the process of affiliating to the international governing body for the sport (as appropriate to the sport).

The recognition of a governing body does not necessarily make it eligible or entitled to consideration for funding. The decision on which body to fund is based on various separate considerations, of which recognition is one.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Sudan

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will cease returning Darfuri asylum seekers pending *(a)* review of the safety of such asylum seekers who have already been returned to Sudan and *(b)* a ceasefire peace agreement and secure environment being in place in that country. [158803]

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* safety of Darfuri asylum seekers who have been returned to Khartoum from the UK since 2003 and *(b)* likely safety of Darfuri asylum seekers who are due to be returned to Khartoum from the UK. [158819]

Mr. Byrne: We take the recent allegations made by the Aegis Trust regarding the treatment of failed asylum seekers who have returned to Sudan very seriously and we are investigating them very thoroughly.

On 4 October, the House of Lords heard an appeal brought by the Home Office on whether it is reasonable to return failed asylum seekers to Khartoum where the Court of Appeal have found no risk of persecution.

There are no enforced returns of failed asylum seekers currently planned before the House of Lords judgment is expected.

Border and Immigration Agency: Correspondence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was between the receipt of a letter by the Border and Immigration Agency and its predecessor from a hon. Member and the sending of a substantive reply in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [158979]

Mr. Byrne: Figures on the length of time taken to reply to hon. Members' correspondence to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate received before August 2004 are not available.

The figures by year are:

August-December 2004—37.83 working days

January-December 2005—32.80 working days

January-December 2006—23.56 working days

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of letters sent by hon. Members to the Border and Immigration Agency in 2006 received a substantive reply within *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* six, *(d)* eight, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* more than 10 weeks; and if she will make a statement. [158984]

Mr. Byrne: In the period 1 January to 31 December 2006 the Border and Immigration Agency received 41,513 letters from hon. Members.

Of these:

(a) 22,837 (55.0 per cent.) were answered in three weeks or less

(b) 32,436 (78.1 per cent.) were answered in four weeks or less

(c) 34,802 (83.8 per cent.) were answered in six weeks or less

(d) 35,575 (85.7 per cent.) were answered in eight weeks or less

(e) 36,121 (87.0 per cent.) were answered in 10 weeks or less

(f) 5,393 (13.0 per cent.) took more than 10 weeks to answer.

Courts: Administrative Delays

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average length of time taken to bring suspects before a court in cases of *(a)* assault and *(b)* other crimes; what steps she is taking to reduce these times; and if she will make a statement. [156214]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The table sets out the average time taken between the recorded date on which a defendant commits an offence to the date on which the defendant's case is first considered by a magistrates court, for the last six years. Figures have also been provided for the average time taken between:

(a) the first listing of a case to completion of that case in the magistrates court

(b) the overall period from offence to completion of a criminal case in the magistrates court.

The figures are from the Time Intervals Survey (TIS) and are based on defendants (adults and youths) in all criminal cases that were proceeded against in the magistrates courts.

The Government established the Criminal Justice Simple Speedy Summary Justice (CJSSS) programme to improve the speed and effectiveness with which cases proceed through the criminal courts. A key part of this programme aims to improve the way cases proceed in the magistrates courts. Following successful tests (with evidence of more offenders pleading guilty at an early stage, fewer hearings and the majority of trials for contested cases being set within 6-10 weeks), national implementation is firmly under way throughout England and Wales. CJSSS is now running in at least one site in each of the 36 local criminal justice areas and fully implemented in all magistrates courts in 11 of those areas. Implementation is expected to be completed in all but a handful of magistrates courts by December 2007. Once fully implemented these changes should deliver a step change in the public's experience of the justice system, improving the speed and effectiveness of magistrates courts.

Average time taken between date of offence to first listing and first listing to completion for all defendants (adult and youth) in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts—England and Wales, 2001 to 2006

	Average number of days from offence to first listing	*Margin of error (+/- days)*	*Average number of days from first listing to completion in magistrates court*	*Margin of error (+/- days)*	*Average number of days from offence to completion in magistrates court*	*Margin of error (+/- days)*	*Sample size (number of defendants)*
(a) All criminal offences							
2001	104	1	33	1	138	1	58,653
2002	109	1	33	1	142	1	63,008
2003	112	1	32	1	144	1	66,835
2004	114	1	33	1	147	1	65,578
2005	118	1	31	1	149	1	63,153
2006	117	1	31	1	148	1	60,200

Average time taken between date of offence to first listing and first listing to completion for all defendants (adult and youth) in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts—England and Wales, 2001 to 2006

	Average number of days from offence to first listing	Margin of error (+/- days)	Average number of days from first listing to completion in magistrates court	Margin of error (+/- days)	Average number of days from offence to completion in magistrates court	Margin of error (+/- days)	Sample size (number of defendants)
(b) Summary non motoring offences[1]							
2001	111	1	21	1	132	2	16,131
2002	122	2	20	1	142	2	18,483
2003	121	1	21	1	142	2	18,524
2004	114	1	26	1	140	2	17,473
2005	123	2	24	1	148	2	18,825
2006	122	2	24	1	146	2	18,976

[1] Includes common assault, assault on a constable, offences against Public Order and Education Act offences.

Notes:

1. Results are based on proceedings in one sample week in March and September. The Time Intervals Survey (TIS) is a sample survey that produces estimates of the average time taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts. More information on TIS is available on the Ministry of Justice website.
2. The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Timeliness in magistrates courts is measured using data from a sample of the total number of defendants. The sample provides one estimate of the average time taken and different samples would produce different average times. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error.
3. "First listing" refers to the first listed hearing of the case in the magistrates court.
4. It is not totally clear which "assault" cases are being referred to in the question. Information on broad offence group is collected in TIS although not at a level that would make it possible to provide estimates for defendants proceeded against for assault crimes separately. The offence classifications are as follows: burglary, criminal damage, drunken driving, drug offences, driving without due care, fraud and forgery, failing to stop, indictable motoring offences, other summary motoring offences, robbery, sexual offences, summary non-motoring offences, theft and handling stolen goods, violence against the person, other indictable offences (excluding motoring offences). Information is not available in TIS at individual offence level. Assault offences are classified in several different offence groups. In addition to timeliness of all criminal cases, timeliness figures have been provided for one of the offence groups ('summary non-motoring offences') as it was thought this might be helpful. The 'summary non-motoring offences' group includes the offences common assault, and assault on a constable, which were thought to be the most relevant offences to answer this question. Please note that in addition to the assault offences, the summary non-motoring offence group also includes a wide variety of other offences such as offences against Public Order and Education Act offences. In addition, certain other forms of assault (e.g. sexual assaults and assault with intent to rob) are counted in other offence groups and will not be included in the table.
5. Results have been provided for all years since 2001. It is not possible to provide consistent data for earlier years owing to methodological changes.

Source:
Time Intervals Survey, Ministry of Justice

Crime: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent change there has been in the level of recorded crimes in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire, broken down by type of crime. [158768]

Mr. McNulty: The most recent information for Chorley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Lancashire police force area is given in following the table.

Recorded crime by offence group and percentage change, 2005-06 to 2006-07

	Chorley CDRP			Lancashire police force area		
Offence group	Offences recorded 2005-06	Offences recorded 2006-07	Percentage change 2005-06 to 2006-07	Offences recorded 2005-06	Offences recorded 2006-07	Percentage change 2005-06 to 2006-07
Total crime	7,269	7,147	-2	142,229	135,837	-4
Violence against the person	1,489	1,460	-2	28,841	26,791	-7
Sexual offences	65	86	32	1,505	1,461	-3
Robbery	22	29	32	1,021	1,014	-1
Burglary	767	796	4	14,629	14,531	-1
Offences against vehicles	971	796	-18	16,263	16,552	2
Other theft offences	1,400	1,545	10	29,354	28,584	-3
Fraud and forgery	302	242	-20	5,524	3,976	-28
Criminal damage	1,938	1,752	-10	40,110	37,804	-6
Drug offences	230	338	47	3,245	3,301	2
Other offences	85	103	21	1,737	1,823	5

Crimes Against Property: Business

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it a requirement that crime against business is recorded as a separate category in official statistics; and if she will make a statement. [157784]

Mr. McNulty: The current recorded crime offence classification series does differentiate between robbery of personal property and robbery of business property, and also between domestic burglary and that of burglary in a building other than a dwelling. However, these categories will only represent some of the crimes against business which are recorded by the police. Offences of theft by an employee and fraud by company director are also included within the series.

The feasibility of police forces flagging commercial burglary offences is being examined as part of the regular annual data requirement review process by the Home Office and ACPO. These data are to be provided under a pilot scheme using a new crime recording

system which is currently being developed in the Home Office. It will enable a richer range of data to be collected from police forces. The feasibility of measuring crime against business will be examined during 2008-09.

Departments: Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list her Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations in each financial year since 2005-06. [156632]

Mr. Byrne: The 2005-06 list of *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-department public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations can be found in the publication Public Bodies 2006 at:

wwww.civilservice.gov.uk.

The 2006-07 list of *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-department public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporation will be published shortly on the Home Office website.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contingency preparations her Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs of those preparations were. [156999]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 16 October 2007, *Official, Report,* column 823W.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* the least popular website run by her Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157898]

Mr. Byrne: Of all of the Home Office websites managed by the core Home Office web team, the main Home Office site (www.homeoffice.gov.uk) is the most popular, with 5,025,514 visits since January 2007 and 3,380,390 unique visitors (as at September 2007). The least popular site (by means of visitor numbers) is the website of the Technical Advisory Board (www.technicaladvisory board.org.uk), one of the Home Office advisory bodies. At September 2007, it had received 324 visits and 265 unique visitors since January 2007. This website is currently being migrated into the Home Office corporate website as part of our Transformational Government work.

Fibre Optics: Mitcheldean

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what purpose her Department requires fibre optic cables to be laid in Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement. [158036]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* On the basis of the information provided, it has not been possible to ascertain whether the works identified by the hon. Gentleman are connected to the Home Office. If the hon. Gentleman could provide any further information that might be at his disposal, I would be more than willing to review the matter again.

Hampshire Constabulary: Firearms

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times police have been issued firearms in Hampshire in each of the last five years. [158752]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 718W.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate: Correspondence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of letters sent by hon. Members to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in 2003 received a substantive reply within *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* six, *(d)* eight, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* more than 10 weeks; and if she will make a statement. [158973]

Mr. Byrne: Figures on the length of time taken to reply to hon. Members' correspondence to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate received in 2003 are not available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of letters sent by hon. Members to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in 2001 received a substantive reply within *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* six, *(d)* eight, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* more than 10 weeks; and if she will make a statement. [158983]

Mr. Byrne: Figures on the length of time taken to reply to hon. Members' correspondence to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate received in 2001 are not available.

Immigration: Detainees

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of stay of detainees within the immigration detention estate was in each of the last five years. [158699]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on persons recorded as leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers during 2005 and between January to September 2006 broken down by length of detention have been published in the "Asylum Statistics: United Kingdom 2005" and "Asylum Statistics: United Kingdom 2006" bulletins respectively. This information was first available for 2005 and is the latest period for which information is currently available.

Snapshot details of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers for each of the last five years are also published in this series of bulletins. Immigration Research and Statistics plans to start

publishing statistics on all persons recorded as leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers again (and full details on length of detention) as soon as the data quality problems associated with the new administrative system have been resolved.

We do not publish an average length of stay in detention since this would be potentially misleading and could easily be skewed by a small number of cases in the upper range.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Lancashire Constabulary: Community Support Officers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers are deployed in Lancashire. [158767]

Mr. McNulty: At 31 March 2007, Lancashire Constabulary had 374 PCSOs in post.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 30 August from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West in relation to his constituent Mr. Nader El-Reah Almutbage. [158770]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 September 2007]:* A reply was despatched on 27 September 2007.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Immigration and Nationality Department will reply to the letters of *(a)* 25 June, *(b)* 31 July and *(c)* 11 September from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West on his constituent Mr. Abdul Rashid Abdullah. [158776]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency replied to the hon. Member on 15 October 2007.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 29 July from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West on his constituent Mr Denboba Natie. [158777]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 15 October 2007.

Metropolitan Police: Secondment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been seconded to the Metropolitan police for counter-terrorism duties from regional police forces; and what the cost has been *(a)* in total and *(b)* for each regional police force concerned. [157319]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics.

The number of officers seconded to individual police forces is collected centrally, but the home force, reason for secondment and associated costs are not.

Office of Surveillance Commissioners: Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Office of Surveillance Commissioners will amend its inspection priorities to undertake a first inspection of *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* the Valuation and Lands Agency. [158134]

Mr. McNulty: The Valuation Office Agency and the Valuation and Lands Agency do not carry out surveillance of individuals and do not operate covertly. Their officers always identify themselves when carrying out their duties.

Police Stations: CCTV

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of custody offices in police stations are equipped with fully functioning audio and visual CCTV in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales. [158711]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* This is an operational matter for chief constables.

Police: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account is taken in the manning formula for Bournemouth police of the number of visitors to Bournemouth every weekend. [157308]

Mr. McNulty: The deployment of police officers in Bournemouth at weekends is an operational matter for the chief constable of Dorset police.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of funding for additional policing during the Labour party conference in Bournemouth was provided by the Government. [157309]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office provides special grant to police authorities to pay for the additional costs incurred on policing the two main annual party conferences.

Dorset police submitted a bid of £4.5 million (revenue) plus £80,000 (capital) for the additional costs of policing the 2007 Labour party autumn conference, which was approved in full.

Police: Dogs

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dog handlers were employed by North Wales Police on *(a)* 31 December 2004, *(b)* 31 December 2005, *(c)* 31 December 2006 and *(d)* the most recent date for which figures are available. [156952]

Mr. McNulty: The information is shown in the following table.

Police officers in North Wales whose primary function[1] is dogs, as at 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2007 (FTE)[2]

	Number
31 March 2004	12
31 March 2005	15
31 March 2006	11
31 March 2007	12

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.
[2] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. This figure includes those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to address geographical disparities in police funding. [158720]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Police Service in England and Wales has benefited from a significant increase in resources over a sustained period.

Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that distributes resources on the basis of relative needs and resources. A damping mechanism is subsequently applied to protect all authorities against financial instability which ensures that all authorities receive an increase in grant at least equal to the "floor" level on a like-for-like basis year-on-year.

The Home Office will announce a Provisional Finance Settlement for the police for the CSR years, 2008-09 to 2010-11, in late November/early December as in previous years which will take account of responses to the recent consultation exercise on local government formula grant distribution.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcome was of the meeting at Heathrow on 30 July of police and their oversight bodies from around the UK and representatives of her Department and the Department for Transport to discuss a common approach to police-industry service agreements covering security, resourcing and costs. [157829]

Mr. McNulty: The meeting that took place on 30 July 2007 was arranged by the Metropolitan Police Authority for an invited audience of police authorities and police forces to discuss progress on the implementation of the provisions of the Civil Aviation Act 2006. The Act requires the airport operator and police at designated airports to agree a Police Services Agreement, which must be in place by 7 November 2007. Attendees shared with each other the progress that had been made in their local negotiations with airport operators and what further work may be needed to reach agreement.

Policing: Luton Airport

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to assist Bedfordshire police with the costs of policing London Luton airport following Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary 2006-07 assessments. [158500]

Mr. McNulty: *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* Luton airport is not a designated airport and as such the airport operator is not required, by law, to pay for the policing of the airport.

Bedfordshire Police Authority has been receiving substantial financial assistance for the policing of Luton airport for a number of years.

The system of designation and the cost of policing airports was raised in the Independent Review of Airport Policing 2006. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport and I are currently reviewing the process to enable the recovery of associated policing costs from airport operators.

Resettlement: Iraq

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans the Government has to assist Iraqis who wish to enter Great Britain and claim asylum, with particular reference to those who have worked in Iraq for the British Army; [158799]

(2) what measures the Government plans to put in place to help Iraqi interpreters who have worked for the British Army to claim asylum in the UK; [158800]

(3) if the Government will set up a website with instructions on claiming asylum in the UK aimed at Iraqis who have been employed by the British Army. [158801]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The Foreign Secretary announced in his written ministerial statement of 9 October the assistance that would be made available to help Iraqis employed by the Government in Iraq.

The statement also promised that we will announce further details, including on how eligible staff may apply, before the end of the month.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance the Office of Surveillance Commissioners has provided to local authorities on surveillance in relation to *(a)* the public smoking ban and *(b)* rubbish collection and waste disposal; and how many inspections of local authorities have taken place in relation to each. [158128]

Mr. McNulty: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners has not given specific guidance to local authorities and does not undertake thematic inspections of surveillance relating to specific investigative activity. Inspections conducted on behalf of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner are not designed to provide guidance but to review performance, although specific scenarios may have been addressed during inspections.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the local authorities inspected by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners in 2006-07 used surveillance for *(a)* enforcement of the public smoking ban, *(b)* tackling fly-tipping and *(c)* other issues relating to waste collection and disposal. [158136]

Mr. McNulty: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners does not break down its reports to reflect the specific purposes for which the conduct of surveillance is undertaken.

Terrorism Act 2000

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where information gathered under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is stored. [158848]

Mr. McNulty: Any information that may be retained as a result of a Schedule 7 examination is stored by the local constabulary covering the port concerned and may be shared with other police forces and Government agencies.

In terms of numbers of occasions when stops are made under Schedule 7, the relevant codes of practice advise that all Schedule 7 examinations lasting longer than one hour are recorded centrally and that examinations of shorter duration are recorded locally. There is no centrally held information about the number of stops made by police officers lasting less than one hour.

Terrorism Act 2000: Freedom of Information

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the process is by which an individual can apply for access to information gathered about them under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [158849]

Mr. McNulty: Any individual can apply for access to information gathered about them by contacting the local constabulary for the port concerned. Access details for the constabularies can be found on their websites.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commission for Equality and Human Rights: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected budget is for the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights in its first full year of operation. [157662]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

It is anticipated that the budget for the Equality and Human Rights Commission will be around £70 million which meets ministerial expectations.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Equal Opportunities Commission and *(c)* Disability Rights Commission was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [157494]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the resource and capital budgets on an annual basis for the Disability Rights Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

Organisation	*Resource Budget for financial year 2007-08 (expressed as annual figure) (£000)*
Disability Rights Commission	20,100
Equal Opportunities Commission	8,020
Commission for Racial Equality	19,392

Organisation	*Capital Budget for financial year 2007-08 (expressed as annual figure) (£000)*
Commission for Racial Equality	750

Commission for Equality and Human Rights: Redundancy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated for redundancy and severance payments to staff members of the *(a)* Equal Opportunities Commission, *(b)* Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* Commission for Racial Equality as part of the creation of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. [157455]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

No staff were made redundant. However, the cost of the voluntary severance scheme, excluding the ongoing costs of annual compensation payments (ACP) for people over age 50, is expected to be as follows: CRE cost £3,839,617; DRC cost £1,884,707 and the EOC cost £1,780,364.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158916]

Mr. Dhanda: Since joining the Department in June 2007, the Secretary of State has visited the following regions: the West Midlands (1), the North-West (6), the North-East (2), the South East (1) and has made numerous visits within London. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government plans to visit the remaining regions as soon as diary engagements permit her to do so.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Housing: Grants

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* arm's length management organisations have been granted approval to bid for Government grants to build new homes; on what dates the respective approvals were made; and what discussions she and the Minister for Housing have had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on extension of permissions to local authorities in Wales to bid for new housing grants. [157322]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Corporation announced on 23 July that eight arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) and two local authority special purpose vehicles had pre-qualified as investment partners for the 2008-11 affordable housing programme and moved to the next stage of the bidding process.

The ALMOs named by the Corporation were Ashfield Homes, Brent Housing Partnership, City West Homes, Derby Homes, Hillingdon Homes, Hounslow Homes, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, and Sheffield Homes. The two local authorities were Knowsley metropolitan borough council and Norwich city council. Not all of these organisations will necessarily go on to bid or be successful in their bid. In particular, Hillingdon Homes recently failed to achieve 3 star status following its Audit Commission inspection and has been disapplied from bidding this autumn. Hillingdon will however have an opportunity to consider a new bid next year as a 2 star ALMO under the Corporation's revised criteria.

The Housing Corporation is responsible for the funding of development schemes in England. The Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for funding decisions for social housing in Wales.

Housing: Immigration

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to complete her review of the impact of immigration on *(a)* new house build and *(b)* previously-occupied housing. [155516]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has no plans to undertake a review of this nature. However, we do publish household growth projections, which form part of the evidence base for decisions on planning for housing, and which take into account data on past and projected migration trends. The latest household projections were published as 'New Projections of Households for England and the Regions to 2029' on 16 March 2007, on the Communities and Local Government website. The Department continues to consider the impacts of migration on a range of services and policies—including housing—through the Migration Impacts Forum.

Waste Management

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the existence of separate collection and disposal authorities within county council areas and the adoption of a strategic approach to waste management across the whole county council area. [157937]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The division of responsibilities between the waste disposal and collection authorities in two-tier areas can make sustainable waste management more challenging. Authorities in such areas have a statutory obligation to draw up joint municipal waste management strategies, subject to certain exemptions. These strategies help to encourage and deliver a strategic approach to waste management in two-tier areas.

A report on "Joint Working in Wastes Management[1]" by the Innovation Forum (a group of high-performing authorities) highlighted the benefits of joint working in two-tier areas, citing possible efficiency savings of around £150 million nationally. The report identified the limited legal basis for joint working arrangements as a key barrier to establishing such arrangements. In response to this, the Government have introduced powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill which will allow the establishment of joint waste authorities.

[1] http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/4821783

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how fuel is transported into theatre in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [154226]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding details of specific routes of supply as the release of information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the contribution made to greenhouse gas emissions of the deployment of British military forces in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [157324]

Derek Twigg: Based upon the available data for quantities of aviation and ground fuel supplied in the operational theatres, it is estimated that the average carbon dioxide emissions directly attributable to the deployment of British military forces in Afghanistan and Iraq totalled approximately 250,000 tonnes and 200,000 tonnes respectively for any 12-month period during 2005-07. This can be compared to the MOD's total carbon dioxide emissions (from its estate and non-operational activities such as training) of approximately 5.5 million tonnes per annum and the UK's national emissions of approximately 560 million tonnes per annum in the same period. Data on operational emissions of other greenhouse gases are not currently collated.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes are proposed to the numbers of *(a)* destroyers and *(b)* frigates in consequence of the ordering of the two future aircraft carriers. [157213]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The defence programme is kept under regular review. No decision has been made to change the number of destroyers or frigates.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what protection is given to British military personnel from indirect fire in their living quarters. [154264]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Indirect fire (IDF) is a serious threat which we seek to counter using a layered approach to force protection. This includes the use of hardened infrastructure, security patrols, intelligence gathering, counter measures and, where appropriate, both reactive and proactive strikes against enemy IDF capabilities. It is, however, impossible entirely to eliminate the risks from IDF attacks.

I am withholding details of force protection arrangements in Iraq and Afghanistan as their release would be likely to prejudice the safety or security of our armed forces.

Defence: Inflation

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the National Statistics Quality Review of Ministry of Defence Finance and Economic Statistics Implementation Plan, what progress his Department has made in creating a defence-specific inflation index; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [156235]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Work on developing a Defence related price index commenced in 2004-05 and has continued since. Unfortunately, despite commitment by both the Office for National Statistics and Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA), work has as yet failed to produce a defence specific inflation index.

Matching the companies, to which MOD has made payments, with Office for National Statistics data has been difficult due to changes in names, ownership, recording of information and ONS data on prices being from a sample survey. Less than 20 per cent. of companies paid more than £1 million by MOD in 2002-03 could be matched to price data, which accounted for less than 30 per cent. of MOD spend. Confining analysis to the subset of Defence problems further decreases this already poor coverage causing any estimates of defence inflation to be unreliable and biased.

Using published indices for MOD purchases of goods and services, and indeed the underlying data for these indices also presents a variety of problems. Price changes collected by ONS represent off the shelf products whereas the large value goods that MOD buys tend to be bespoke systems. Quality adjustment of price indices is appropriate for determining change in value, but not for the replacement costs that MOD faces. It is difficult to incorporate overseas expenditure. Indices used in placing contracts frequently do not reflect the expenditure patterns of the MOD.

Work continues to overcome these challenges.

Departments: Departmental Expenditure Limits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the request for resources 1 *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL forecast control totals are for each of his Department's top level budget holders in each of the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [158391]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 636W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

Departments: General Election

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157003]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W, by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first told that the Prime Minister would be announcing troop withdrawals during his visit to Iraq. [157216]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: In preparing for the Prime Minister's visit, I discussed with him all aspects of our future policy in Iraq including troop withdrawals.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what bases UK forces are stationed in Iraq; and what measures are in place in each such base to prevent death or injury from rocket attack. [158445]

Des Browne: The precise area of deployment of UK forces in Iraq can and does vary according to the operational circumstances. The vast majority of UK forces are based at the Contingency Operating Base at Basra airport. UK forces are also present in much smaller numbers at a number of other locations in Iraq, including in Baghdad and Dhi Qar province.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2072, to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard) about force protection.

Navy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what long-term capacity the Royal Navy will retain in respect of *(a)* minehunters and *(b)* patrol vessels. [157212]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: While the defence programme is kept under regular review, the July 2004 White Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World - Future Capabilities" (CM6269) explained that we plan to retain a fleet of 16 mine counter measure vessels. We also intend to maintain a balanced fleet of patrol vessels to fulfil a variety of commitments in home waters and overseas.

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals *(a)* captured and *(b)* killed by British Forces in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since 2001 have been of Iranian nationality. [157036]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence does not maintain records on the nationality of individuals killed in engagements involving UK forces in Iraq or Afghanistan.

As far as we can determine, no Iranian nationals have been processed at the Divisional Internment Facility or its predecessor, the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility, since the latter was established in December 2003. However, most individuals logged in our records do not have their nationality recorded, primarily because this is not always readily attainable and verifiable. Our records indicate that five Iranian nationals were captured and released by UK forces in Iraq prior to December 2003.

Individuals captured by UK forces in Afghanistan are held only temporarily before being either released or passed to the Afghan authorities. We do not routinely maintain records on nationality in these cases.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of days for Relief in Place operations between each roulement to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq was in each year since 2001. [157040]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In Afghanistan, large-scale Relief in Place operations were not conducted prior to the start of Herrick IV in 2006. The average number of days for subsequent Relief in Place operations in 2006 was 55 days.

In Iraq, the average number of days for Relief in Place operations after the initial deployment of 2003 was as follows:

	Days
2003	36
2004	46
2005	46
2006	49

Roulements for 2007 are not yet complete, but the proposed timelines suggest that the average will be 47 days and 36 days for Afghanistan and Iraq respectively.

Salisbury Plain: Hunting

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether trail and drag hunting is permitted on the Salisbury Plain Training Area. [157074]

Derek Twigg: Hunts and beagle packs that have traditionally hunted over defence land are permitted to trail and drag hunt on the defence estate, including Salisbury Plain, subject to the issue of an appropriate licence. However, trail and drag hunting activities cannot currently take place on Ministry of Defence land due to the foot and mouth outbreak, as part of measures implemented by DEFRA to control the spread of the disease.

Submarines: Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timeline he expects for the future submarine programme, including the dates for *(a)* high level design specification, *(b)* design matures, *(c)* long leads, *(d)* start of construction, *(e)* nuclear power plant trials and *(f)* sea trials. [158336]

Des Browne: The Future Submarine Programme is required to deliver a new submarine in around 2024, which is the forecast date for entry into service of the first of the new class. The timetable to achieve this comprises a two-year concept phase, a seven-year design phase, a seven-year build phase and a period of sea trials. Work on the concept phase is now under way and dates for various aspects of the programme are under consideration as part of this work. As stated in my answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1252W, to the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llwyd), we currently expect to reach the Initial Gate approval point in 2009. This will signify the end of the concept phase.

War Pensions

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which areas of the world members of the merchant marine who qualify for a war pension served. [158440]

Derek Twigg: This information is not available in the form requested. The Mercantile Marine scheme provides for awards to be made to members of the mercantile marine who have sustained injuries whilst serving during conflict and war. The scheme dates from the second world war and in addition to that war the scheme applied in principle to members of the mercantile marine involved in the Korean war, the Suez crisis, the Falklands conflict and the first Gulf conflict.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what objections his Department made to wind farm planning applications in each of the last two years. [158424]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has objected to a total of 21 planning applications since October 2005.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Discrimination Law Review

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government plan to publish their response to the consultation on the Discrimination Law Review Green Paper. [157818]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: We were pleased with the substantial response to the consultation—more than 4,000 replies. I will be considering the Government's response with colleagues and plan to publish it as soon as possible.

Equality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the Government's definition is of equality. [157725]

Barbara Follett: The Government's vision of an equal society is one where there is opportunity for all and responsibility from all, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation. In such a society all people should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential and the talents of each should contribute to the well being of all.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government plan to publish their Single Equality Bill. [157819]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The responses to the consultation on proposals for a new Equality Bill are currently being considered. We remain committed to introducing the Act during this Parliament.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Buildings

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the addresses were of each of the premises occupied by the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* Equal Opportunities Commission prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157115]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows.

Legacy Commission operating locations

	Addresses
Commission for Racial Equality	
Manchester	5th floor, Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ
London	St. Dunstan's House, 201-211 Borough High Street London, SE1 1GZ
Birmingham	3rd floor, Lancaster House, 67 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1NA
Edinburgh	2nd Floor, The Tun, 4 Jacksons Entry, off Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8PJ
Cardiff	3rd floor, Capital Tower, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3AG
CRE regional hubs	
London	4th Floor, St. Dunstan's House, London, SE1 1GZ
Newcastle	Government Office for the North East, City Gate, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4WH
Leeds	Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT
Nottingham	Government Office for the East Midlands, The Belgrave Centre, Stanley Place, Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GG
Cambridge	Government Office for the East of England, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 2DF
Guildford	Government Office for the South East, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4GA
Bristol	Government Office for the South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EH
Disability Rights Commission	
Manchester	2nd and 3rd floors, Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ
London	Fox Court, Gray's Inn Road, London, WCIX 8HN
Edinburgh	1st Floor Riverside House, Edinburgh, EH11 3AF
Cardiff	Ground Floor (Unit 5), Ty-nant Court, Cardiff, CR15 8LW
Bangor	Bangor House, Bangor, LL57 1LH
Equal Opportunities Commission	
Manchester	4th and 5th floors, Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ
London	36 Broadway, London, SW1H OXH
Glasgow	St. Stephens House, 279 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JL
Cardiff	Windsor House, Windsor Lane Cardiff CF10 3GE

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the addresses are of each of the premises occupied by the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157116]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows.

	Addresses
Manchester	Arndale House, The Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ
	Lowry House, Spring Gardens, Manchester M2 3AW. (Temporary accommodation until relocation to 5th floor, Arndale House—November 2007)
London	3 More London, Riverside, Tooley Street SE1 2RG
	Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW. (Temporary accommodation until relocation to 3 More London—November 2007)
Cardiff	1st Floor, 3 Callaghan Square, Cardiff CF10 5BT

	Addresses
	3rd floor, Capital Tower, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3AG. (Temporary accommodation until relocation to 3 Callaghan Square—December 2007). Plus a satellite office located in Bangor
Glasgow	The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DU St. Stephens House, 279 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JL. (Temporary accommodation until relocation to the Optima Building—December 2007)
Edinburgh	The Tun, 4 Jacksons Entry, off Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8PJ (co-locating with Scottish Enterprise)
Birmingham	3rd floor, Lancaster House, 67 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1NA

English regional hubs

	Addresses
London	Fifth Floor, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SZ
Newcastle	Government Office for the North East, City Gate, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4WH
Leeds	Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT
Nottingham	Government Office for the East Midlands, The Belgrave Centre, Stanley Place, Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GG
Cambridge	Government Office for the East of England, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 2DF
Guildford	Government Office for the South East, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4GA
Bristol	Government Office for the South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EH

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the total budgets were of the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* Equal Opportunities Commission in the most recent period prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157117]

Barbara Follett: The following tables show the resource and capital budgets on an annual basis for the Disability Rights Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

Organisation	*£000* *Resource budget for financial year 2007-8 (expressed as annual figure)*
Disability Rights Commission	20,100
Equal Opportunities Commission	8,020
Commission for Racial Equality	19,392

Organisation	*£000* *Capital budget for financial year 2007-8 (expressed as annual figure)*
Commission for Racial Equality	750

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the annual budget of the Equality and Human Rights Commission is expected to be. [157118]

Barbara Follett: As stated in the explanatory notes to the Equality Bill, the estimate of the annual budget for the Equality and Human Rights Commission when it is fully operational is £70 million.

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the total annual cost was of *(a)* salaries, *(b)* pension contributions and *(c)* bonuses of staff employed by the (i) Commission for Racial Equality, (ii) Disability Rights Commission and (iii) Equal Opportunities Commission in the latest period available prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157111]

Barbara Follett: We do not have the information available to give an accurate answer to this question at present. Salary information will be available following completion of the final accounts of the three Commissions.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent on redundancy packages for staff employed by *(a)* the Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* the Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* the Equal Opportunities Commission prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157108]

Barbara Follett: No staff were made redundant. However, the cost of the voluntary severance scheme, excluding the ongoing costs of annual compensation payments (ACP) for people over age 50, is expected to be as follows: CRE cost £3,839,617; DRC cost £1,884,707 and the EOC cost £1,780,364.

Flexible Working

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans the Government has to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees. [157755]

Barbara Follett: The right to request flexible work has been a huge success—and in April this year we extended the right to carers of adults—that is another 2.65 million employees.

In the recently published Priorities for the Ministers for Women Command Paper, I made a commitment to support the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in considering whether to extend the right to request flexible work to parents of older children.

Refugees: Forced Prostitution

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the extent and causes of Iraqi women and children who have become refugees being forced into prostitution; what action the UK Government are taking in this regard; and if she will make a statement. [156087]

Barbara Follett: The UK Government are concerned at reports, including from the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), that some Iraqi refugee women and young girls have been forced to resort to prostitution and children forced into labour or other forms of exploitation to survive. We will continue to support the efforts of UNHCR, who are working closely with host country Governments to assess and address the needs of all Iraqi refugees.

So far this year the UK Government have committed £15 million to support humanitarian agencies working in Iraq and the region , bringing our total humanitarian assistance for vulnerable Iraqis to over £130 million since 2003. We remain in close contact with our humanitarian partners to ensure they are adequately resourced to respond to needs on the ground.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that court hearings, including appeal hearings, relating to underage sales of alcohol are conducted promptly. [159101]

Maria Eagle: All cases, in both the magistrates court and appeals to the Crown court, are dealt with on their merits and are heard as quickly as possible. The Government's Criminal Justice Simple, Speedy, Summary (CJSSS) programme is under way to improve court processes in the magistrates courts to ensure that cases are dealt with as fairly and as quickly as possible. Early indications are that the programme will have a significant impact on eliminating unnecessary hearings and reducing the time from charge to disposal for adult charged cases. This should also allow summons cases such as underage sale of alcohol to be heard more quickly.

Arms Trade: Israel

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Legal Services Commission is funding a case brought by Mr. Saleh Hassan against the UK Government in relation to Israeli policy in the West Bank. [159040]

Maria Eagle: Saleh Hasan is receiving legal aid to fund a judicial review of the British Government in relation to the granting of export licences for the sale of arms to Israel. Individual funding decisions are made by the Legal Services Commission in accordance with the Access to Justice Act 1999 and other documents laid before Parliament.

Coroners

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the oldest outstanding inquest is in each coroner's jurisdiction; [156048]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average time taken to complete an inquest in England and Wales in each year since 2001, broken down by coroner's jurisdiction; [156049]

(3) how many inquests were pending before coroners in England and Wales at the end of each calendar year since 2001, broken down by coroner's jurisdiction. [156050]

Bridget Prentice: For the oldest outstanding inquest in each district, as at 31 December 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1157-60W, in response to a similar question. More up-to-date information is not held centrally.

The average time in weeks taken to complete an inquest in England and Wales, for each coroner's district, in each year since 2004 (the earliest year for which figures are available) is shown in the following tables.

The number of inquests outstanding within each coroner's district as at 31 December 2006, and at the end of each calendar year since 2001 is shown in the following tables.

Annex A: Estimated average time to conduct an inquest, in weeks, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
The Queen's Household	n/a	n/a	n/a
North East			
Darlington and South Durham	26	28	25
North Durham	19	22	24
Hartlepool	U	15	17
North Northumberland	21	25	25
South Northumberland	20	18	17
Teesside	35	28	28
Gateshead and South Tyneside	24	22	24
Newcastle upon Tyne	21	20	21
North Tyneside	21	20	18
Sunderland	23	15	19
North West			
Cheshire	28	27	28
North East Cumbria	32	32	30

Annex A: Estimated average time to conduct an inquest, in weeks, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
South Cumbria and Furness	16	18	21
Western Cumbria	24	23	22
Manchester city	29	33	33
Manchester North	15	19	25
Manchester South	31	27	23
Manchester West	28	27	24
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	15	17	13
Blackpool/Fylde	19	15	23
East Lancashire	22	29	33
Preston and West Lancashire	19	21	22
Sefton, Knowsley and St. Helens	20	22	26
Liverpool	10	10	10
Wirral	16	16	16
Yorkshire and the Humber			
East Riding and Hull	36	34	22
North Lincolnshire and Grimsby	33	42	34
York City	42	28	22
North Yorkshire Eastern District	24	21	20
North Yorkshire Western District	26	29	28
South Yorkshire Eastern District	17	16	16
South Yorkshire Western District	19	18	18
West Yorkshire Eastern District	28	28	27
West Yorkshire Western District	23	25	24
East Midlands			
Derby and South Derbyshire	19	19	22
North Derbyshire (formerly known as Scarsdale)	12	14	13
Leicester city and South Leicestershire	n/a	24	21
Rutland and North Leicestershire	17	18	20
Boston and Spalding	19	18	20
West Lincolnshire	28	25	29
Spilsby and Louth	19	24	17
Stamford	21	19	24
Northamptonshire	23	27	26
Nottinghamshire	16	13	13
West Midlands			
Herefordshire	28	20	33
Mid and North Shropshire	21	26	23
South Shropshire	22	31	35
Staffordshire South	n/a	21	23
Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire	18	17	18
Telford and Wrekin	17	22	25

Annex A: Estimated average time to conduct an inquest, in weeks, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Warwickshire	24	27	30
Birmingham and Solihull	17	17	17
Black Country	13	18	24
Coventry	21	17	18
Wolverhampton	18	21	22
Worcestershire	14	16	16
East of England			
Bedfordshire and Luton	18	15	20
North and East Cambridgeshire	20	25	24
South and West Cambridgeshire	16	19	17
Essex and Thurrock	33	41	34
Hertfordshire	19	19	22
Great Yarmouth	15	28	15
Norwich and Central Norfolk	20	22	23
King's Lynn	11	12	14
Peterborough	20	26	27
Southend-on-Sea	15	21	n/a
Suffolk	14	17	21
London			
City of London	34	29	34
East London	n/a	26	34
Inner North London	32	29	32
Inner South London	27	25	21
Inner West London	12	12	14
North London	20	17	20
South London	21	21	23
West London	23	22	32
South East			
Berkshire (former county)	16	19	21
Brighton and Hove	n/a	13	11
Buckinghamshire	24	22	18
East Sussex	25	27	25
Central Hampshire	20	17	21
North East Hampshire	12	12	13
Portsmouth and South East Hampshire	29	41	42
Southampton and New Forest	15	17	17
Isle of Wight	35	45	32
Central and South East Kent	25	27	30
Mid Kent and Medway	26	28	27
North East Kent	20	17	24
North West Kent	19	21	22
Milton Keynes	12	17	19
Oxfordshire	39	38	46
Surrey	23	28	25
West Sussex	14	14	15
South West			
Avon (former county)	20	26	29

Annex A: Estimated average time to conduct an inquest, in weeks, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cornwall	27	29	35
Exeter and Greater Devon	23	21	26
Plymouth and South West Devon	18	17	26
Torbay and South Devon	23	20	21
Bournemouth Poole and Eastern Dorset	15	14	12
Western Dorset	23	19	20
Gloucestershire	25	25	28
Isles of Scilly	9	20	9
Eastern Somerset	23	28	23
Western Somerset	18	19	25
Wiltshire and Swindon	32	33	35
Wales			
Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys	27	30	35
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	34	33	40
Carmarthenshire	13	12	16
Central North Wales	25	21	20
Ceredigion	28	23	11
Gwent	19	11	19
Neath and Port Talbot	18	24	29
North East Wales	28	24	23
North West Wales	27	27	24
Pembrokeshire	18	19	23
Powys	19	23	22
City and County of Swansea	33	36	43
Overall average, England and Wales (weeks)	22	23	24

n/a = Not available.

Annex B: Number of inquests outstanding at the end of each year, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
The Queen's Household	1	1	1	1	1	1
North East						
Darlington and South Durham	72	62	28	53	40	64
North Durham	41	38	34	109	77	120
Hartlepool	32	17	12	16	12	13
North Northumberland	25	36	68	70	65	83
South Northumberland	47	48	48	32	61	48
Teesside	269	310	239	169	191	184
Gateshead and South Tyneside	11	50	69	60	48	52
Newcastle upon Tyne	98	147	122	138	132	147
North Tyneside	123	129	113	51	68	61
Sunderland	34	50	80	94	143	135

Annex B: Number of inquests outstanding at the end of each year, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North West						
Cheshire	257	235	239	281	286	327
North East Cumbria	55	63	66	80	57	100
South Cumbria and Furness[1]	31	42	8	44	35	54
Western Cumbria	28	31	17	32	27	40
Manchester city	168	100	181	195	172	368
Manchester North	46	62	88	124	185	148
Manchester South	350	245	290	289	134	241
Manchester West	179	277	194	221	148	178
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	36	26	79	43	47	71
Blackpool/Fylde	52	51	31	54	69	85
East Lancashire	37	40	41	71	68	87
Preston and West Lancashire[1]	69	67	74	149	170	60
Sefton, Knowsley and St. Helens	129	80	114	120	110	164
Liverpool	50	59	28	40	47	10
Wirral	64	42	88	74	66	117
Yorkshire and the Humber						
East Riding and Hull	72	132	137	137	113	88
North Lincolnshire and Grimsby	39	36	53	116	73	96
York City	37	30	55	69	38	44
North Yorkshire Eastern District	55	55	60	43	28	39
North Yorkshire Western District	95	49	47	59	70	59
South Yorkshire Eastern District	116	67	80	63	67	114
South Yorkshire Western District	126	88	124	80	88	140
West Yorkshire Eastern District	312	354	290	274	278	307
West Yorkshire Western District	216	212	197	202	168	273
East Midlands						
Derby and South Derbyshire	88	39	61	57	55	74
North Derbyshire (formerly known as Scarsdale)[1]	44	61	55	41	57	72
Leicester city and South Leicestershire	195	211	186	118	138	341
Rutland and North Leicestershire	47	49	67	42	64	69
Boston and Spalding	25	14	30	30	29	18
West Lincolnshire[1]	36	44	67	55	47	63

Annex B: Number of inquests outstanding at the end of each year, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Spilsby and Louth[1]	18	22	25	36	29	31
Stamford	2	8	8	6	12	15
Northamptonshire	95	126	91	108	134	172
Nottinghamshire	93	153	150	103	58	98
West Midlands						
Herefordshire	24	15	3	30	14	56
Mid and North Shropshire	30	45	43	37	43	36
South Shropshire	20	29	16	22	18	12
Staffordshire South	132	121	131	76	103	133
Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire	58	71	115	157	102	169
Telford and Wrekin	13	46	32	32	49	23
Warwickshire	74	96	67	95	153	124
Birmingham and Solihull	35	152	284	243	560	162
Black Country[1]	113	123	148	154	65	155
Coventry	31	38	46	45	45	98
Wolverhampton	43	23	29	39	39	41
Worcestershire	68	98	96	121	95	67
East of England						
Bedfordshire and Luton	50	63	46	43	55	64
North and East Cambridgeshire	28	22	29	28	17	26
South and West Cambridgeshire	30	39	41	57	3	58
Essex and Thurrock	158	177	171	274	214	321
Hertfordshire[1]	149	167	69	88	118	51
Great Yarmouth	10	17	14	5	4	12
Norwich and Central Norfolk[1]	46	65	66	77	62	152
King's Lynn	16	12	15	15	23	16
Peterborough	37	18	24	35	39	46
Southend-on-Sea	29	28	39	58	88	32
Suffolk[1]	67	46	49	78	73	115
London						
City of London	9	17	12	9	10	14
East London	185	210	260	203	230	217
Inner North London	275	283	253	219	284	399
Inner South London	165	130	281	278	229	226
Inner West London	123	106	56	85	84	142
North London	238	154	199	171	177	210
South London	88	102	112	110	102	141
West London	33	187	197	188	221	272
South East						
Berkshire (former county)[1]	60	50	32	51	89	90
Brighton and Hove	32	24	23	31	28	29

Annex B: Number of inquests outstanding at the end of each year, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Buckinghamshire	48	68	57	45	12	34
East Sussex	64	126	149	104	104	169
Central Hampshire	49	37	44	24	39	81
North East Hampshire	36	9	18	10	11	2
Portsmouth and South East Hampshire	40	29	103	149	145	233
Southampton and New Forest	34	39	47	52	40	38
Isle of Wight	31	46	42	47	21	36
Central and South East Kent[1]	59	46	61	84	91	98
Mid Kent and Medway	84	64	110	104	106	130
North East Kent	62	99	63	77	90	35
North West Kent	67	72	70	70	31	62
Milton Keynes	18	18	26	29	41	44
Oxfordshire	126	126	155	192	202	358
Surrey	127	153	169	205	179	178
West Sussex	65	33	51	77	58	61
South West						
Avon (former county)	188	112	118	275	212	530
Cornwall[1]	100	78	114	202	139	295
Exeter and Greater Devon	64	88	145	142	176	210
Plymouth and South West Devon	61	177	210	158	222	133
Torbay and South Devon	26	34	41	35	36	45
Bournemouth Poole and Eastern Dorset	33	32	52	39	33	24
Western Dorset	28	29	20	25	29	29
Gloucestershire[1]	87	93	87	99	129	214
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	1	0
Eastern Somerset	29	37	36	54	36	61
Western Somerset	22	58	62	56	56	28
Wiltshire and Swindon	102	123	156	148	140	189
Wales						
Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys	206	174	155	170	139	158
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	138	145	150	174	258	283
Carmarthenshire	54	24	18	21	19	32
Central North Wales	87	42	43	45	52	52
Ceredigion	19	17	14	19	5	6
Gwent	17	24	20	35	23	39
Neath and Port Talbot	15	20	16	20	12	32
North East Wales	80	36	33	73	45	88
North West Wales	57	62	54	69	56	64
Pembrokeshire	20	14	16	15	18	29

Annex B: Number of inquests outstanding at the end of each year, by coroner's district

Name of coroner's district	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Powys	13	25	24	37	30	51
City and County of Swansea	111	113	174	121	90	148
Total England and Wales	8,951	9,354	10,056	10,704	10,598	13,079

[1] This district incorporates one or more smaller districts which were separate in 2001. Figures from years when the districts were separate have been aggregated.

Note:

In certain circumstances where the data were not available, we have estimated the number of outstanding inquests in a jurisdiction at the end of a year by using related data on the numbers of inquests opened and closed during the year. Around 6 per cent. of values shown in this table have been subject to such an estimation process.

Departmental Reorganisation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the Transfer of Functions Order detailing the changes in his Department was laid before Parliament for approval. [157722]

Maria Eagle: A Transfer of Functions Order relating to the machinery of government changes of 9 May 2007 was made on 25 July 2007. This was laid before Parliament under the negative resolution procedure on 1 August, and came into force on 22 August 2007. The order is entitled the Secretary of State for Justice Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/2128).

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1st January 2007. [157771]

Maria Eagle: My Department does not hold web usage statistics for all of its websites. For those that we do hold, in January 2007 the most visited website was Her Majesty's Courts Service and the least visited was the Community Justice website. The following table below shows the number of visits each site received for the period January to August 2007:

Month 2007	*www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk*	*www.communityjustice.gov.uk*
January	696,798	1,327
February	745,681	1,408
March	742,995	1,544
April	598,505	1,223
May	659,703	1,232
June	651,797	1,097
July	595,444	1,237
August	621,797	1,193

Feltham Young Offenders' Institution and Remand Centre

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W, on Feltham Young Offenders' Institution and Remand Centre, what research was undertaken in arriving at the conclusion that the rise in reported racist incidents was due to more robust reporting; who commissioned this research; who carried it out; if he will place a copy of the research in the Library; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Hanson: The assertion that there had been no increase in racist activity and that the reporting system was more robust was and is the operational view of managers and staff at Feltham and senior management in the Prison Service. The Independent Monitoring Board have commented favourably on improvements at Feltham and the recently published report by HMCIP commented that Feltham:

"is a long way from the establishment described in our earlier reports and in the Mubarek inquiry."

I agree with this view.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W, on Feltham Young Offenders' Institution and Remand Centre, whether the investigation carried out by the Deputy Governor of HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs is the inquiry to which the answer refers; whether this was classified as a simple inquiry; how long the inquiry took to complete; how many people were interviewed; how many pages were included in the final completed report; who commissioned the inquiry; whether it is his Department's policy that inquiries may be conducted by an employee of lower grade than the person under investigation; and if he will make a statement. [158540]

Maria Eagle: Yes, the simple inquiry carried out by the Deputy Governor of Wormwood Scrubs is the inquiry to which the previous answer refers. The inquiry took seven and a half months to complete; two members of staff were interviewed, and the final report ran to 25 pages. The area manager for London was the commissioning authority for this inquiry, and the only grade requirement for an investigating officer is that they are at least of principal officer or executive officer grade, and that the commissioning authority must be satisfied with the competence and impartiality of the investigating officer.

Human Trafficking

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will extend the provision of supported housing for victims of human trafficking. [158262]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice currently funds the Poppy project to provide adult women trafficked into sexual exploitation with secure accommodation, one-to-one intensive crisis support, outreach support and a resettlement service. This year an additional £100,000 was invested to top-up the £2.4 million grant, to increase the capacity of the project during the national enforcement campaign Operation Pentameter 2.

The United Kingdom became signatory to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in March 2007, which sets out minimum obligations in relation to the protection and support of all identified victims of trafficking. The Government are committed to implementing these measures which will enhance existing support arrangements.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoner-on-prisoner and *(b)* prisoner-on-officer assaults were recorded in each prison establishment in each month in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [159094]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally and to obtain and check the data to the level of detail requested would involve contacting each individual prison to verify data.

Prostitution: Prosecutions

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many men have been successfully prosecuted for paying for sex with women aged under 18 years in each of the last six years. [158535]

Maria Eagle: Between 2000 and 2005 three men were proceeded against for the offence of paying for sex with women aged under 18. None of these men were found guilty of this offence.

Child prostitution cases are hard to prove; and defendants are more likely to be proceeded against for offences of "Sexual Activity with a child" under Section 9 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. (Prior to the 2003 Act, these offences were "Unlawful Sexual Intercourse with a Girl" under the Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sections 5 and 69). The number of men found guilty of these offences in England and Wales from 2000 to 2005 are shown in the following table.

Number of males found guilty at all courts of offences of sexual activity with a female child and unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl, England and Wales, 2000 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

Statutes	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Sexual Offences Act 1956 (Sections 5 and 6)	267	267	275	297	79	15
Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Section 9)[3]	—	—	—	—	67	374
Total	267	267	275	297	146	389

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Pupils: Mathematics

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of pupils from *(a)* independent, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* grammar schools received a grade A in both mathematics and further mathematics in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [148162]

(2) how many and what percentage of pupils from *(a)* independent, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* grammar schools received a grade A in both mathematics and physics in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [148163]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the level of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan was from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU in the last year; and if he will make a statement. [158755]

Mr. Malik: In 2006-07 DFID provided £1.6 million in bilateral humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. Afghanistan is also one of the largest recipients of UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) support, to which the UK is the largest contributor (23 per cent. of total CERF value in 2006). Afghanistan received $32.3 million from CERF in 2006. We also provide core funding to UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and UNHCR, all of whom have operations in Afghanistan.

In 2005 (the latest year for which figures are available) the total humanitarian aid to Afghanistan from EU Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member states was $90.33 million.

Africa: Floods

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support he has made available to African countries affected by the recent flooding, broken down by country. [157535]

Mr. Malik: DFID is playing a full role in the response to the African floods and staff were deployed quickly to review the humanitarian situation in Ghana, Kenya and Uganda.

DFID is the largest donor to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), contributing £42.2 million this year. This means that funds are available to start humanitarian operations immediately, not wait for appeals to be launched. So far, CERF funding has been used to support flood responses in Sudan (£4.35 million), Uganda (£3 million), Ghana (£1.25 million), Togo (£110,000) and Mali (£500,000).

DFID is also the largest donor to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) in Sudan, contributing approximately £40 million this year, and the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) in Ethiopia, contributing £3 million this year. These funds have been drawn on in Sudan (£2.4 million) and Ethiopia (£1 million) for flood response.

In addition, direct funding is being provided where humanitarian needs remain unmet. So far, DFID has contributed £1.15 million in Uganda, including £750,000 through the World Food Programme for food aid and logistics, and £400,000 through the Red Cross for emergency shelter and health. In Ethiopia, DFID is providing £1 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) annual humanitarian appeal, some of which is being used for flood response. In Ghana we have provided £250,000 to the Red Cross for emergency shelter, provision of safe water and health care.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157876]

Mr. Malik: DFID has eight inward secondees from outside Government. Secondments vary from a period of 12 months to four years. The breakdown is as follows:

Seconding organisation	*Number of secondments*	*Duration (year)*
World Bank	3	2-4
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)	1	2
Police Service of Northern Ireland	1	2
British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND)	1	1
Belgian Technical Cooperation	1	2
French Foreign Ministry	1	1

Mexico City

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* officials have had with the United States administration on its Mexico City policy; and if he will make a statement. [158366]

Mr. Malik: Ministers and officials have had no recent discussions specifically with the United States administration on its Mexico City policy.

Overseas Aid: Gaza

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1980W, on humanitarian aid: Gaza, what representations have been received from the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East regarding the movement of humanitarian supplies through Gaza's border with Israel; and if he will make a statement. [157524]

Mr. Malik: We have not received any representations from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on this issue.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 138W, on Palestinians: international assistance, what agreement has been reached on EU financial assistance for the Palestinian Emergency Government; and if he will make a statement. [157531]

Mr. Malik: On 24 July, the European Commission announced $123 million (£62 million) of assistance for 2007. EU donors including the UK, Sweden and France have already committed direct financial support to the PA.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Benefit

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of paying child benefit to households in the *(a)* £0-£10,000, *(b)* £10,001-£20,000, *(c)* £20,001-£30,000, *(d)* £30,001-£40,000, *(e)* £40,001-£50,000 and *(f)* over £50,000 per annum income brackets in the latest period for which figures are available. [157394]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the estimated expenditure on child benefit in 2005-06, broken down by gross family income.

Estimated expenditure on child benefit by gross family income: 2005-06

	Number of families (000)	*Number of children (000)*	*Estimated expenditure (£ million)*
£0-£10,000	499	693	554
£10,001-£20,000	1,724	3,037	2,294
£20,001-£30,000	1,573	2,980	2,216

Estimated expenditure on child benefit by gross family income: 2005-06

	Number of families (000)	*Number of children (000)*	*Estimated expenditure (£ million)*
£30,001-£40,000	1,211	2,176	1,636
£40,001-£50,000	812	1,405	1,065
above £50,000	1,480	2,665	2,003
All incomes	7,298	12,957	9,769

Notes:
Gross family income is sum of earnings, self-employment income, investment income, family benefits, pensions and other income)
Source:
Family Resources Survey: 2005-06

Commission for Equality and Human Rights: Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Commission for Equality and Human Rights to reach its full staffing complement. [157816]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 10 October 2007]*: The Commission has commenced the recruitment of staff. The timing of meeting the full complement will depend on the outcomes of recruitment exercises and the availability of suitably qualified staff.

Departments: Departmental Records

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 84W, on departments: departmental records, what the reasons are for the difference in the number of files and the number of claimants. [153703]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is quite legitimate for a customer to have more than one DWP record file. At any given time an individual may be in receipt of injury benefit, income support, disability living allowance, social fund payment(s). It should be noted that each social fund claim generates a new file. It is also feasible that CSA, debt management and fraud hold files on the individual as well as dormant records for jobseekers allowance and the labour market unit. Other benefits for which individual records are kept include retirement pension, attendance allowance and industrial injuries disablement benefit.

Not all files held are benefit files. There are also registered files and personnel files.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for each financial year since 2005-06. [156619]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of the Department for Work and Pensions' Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) for each financial year since 2005-06 are set out as follows:

2005-06

(a) Executive Agencies

Jobcentre Plus
The Pension Service
Child Support Agency
Disability and Carers Service
The Appeals Service
The Rent Service

(b) Executive NDPBs

Disability Rights Commission
Health and Safety Commission
Health and Safety Executive
Independent Living Funds
The Pensions Regulator

(c) Advisory NDPBs

Disability Employment Advisory Committee
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council
National Employment Panel
Social Security Advisory Committee

(d) Tribunal NDPBs

Appeals Service
Pensions Ombudsman (was incorrectly recorded as an Advisory Body in the publication Public Bodies 2006)
Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman

(e) Trading funds

None

(f) Public Corporations

Pensions Protection Fund
Remploy Ltd

2006-07

(a) Executive Agencies

Jobcentre Plus
The Pension Service
Child Support Agency
Disability and Carers Service
The Rent Service

(b) Executive NDPBs

Disability Rights Commission
Health and Safety Commission
Health and Safety Executive
Independent Living Funds
National Employment Panel Ltd
The Pensions Advisory Service
The Pensions Regulator

(c) Advisory NDPBs

Disability Employment Advisory Committee
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board

Equality 2025
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council
National Employment Panel
Social Security Advisory Committee

(d) Tribunal NDPBs

Pensions Ombudsman
Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman

(e) Trading funds

None

(f) Public Corporations

Pensions Protection Fund
Remploy Ltd

Additional information regarding the Department's Agencies and non-departmental public bodies is available from a number of published documents and other sources. The Cabinet Office publication Public Bodies 2006[1] contains information on the Department's non-departmental public bodies in 2005-06 while information regarding 2006-07 is available from the Department's internet site[2]. Information regarding the Department's executive agencies can be found within the DWP Departmental Framework[3] and the Departmental Reports for 2006[4] and 2007[5].

[1] http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public__bodies/index.asp

[2] http://www.dwp.gov.uk/ndpb/public_bodies.asp#ndpb

[3] http://www.dwp.gov.uk/aboutus/departmental_framework.asp

[4] http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2006/dr06/

[5] http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/dr07/

Deprived Areas Fund

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* areas and *(b)* parliamentary constituencies the deprived areas fund applies to; how much the fund is; and what its purpose is. [154669]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information about the areas and parliamentary constituencies to which the deprived areas fund applies is lengthy and has been placed in the Library.

The deprived areas fund was £19.3 million for the third and fourth quarters of 2006-07 and is £59.1 million in 2007-08.

The deprived areas fund is an area based initiative which aims to improve the employment rate across all areas of the country and, in particular, on narrowing the gap between those areas with the lowest employment rates and the overall national rate.

Employment Schemes: Luton

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations are assisting *(a)* long-term unemployed and *(b)* disabled people into work in Luton under contract with his Department. [149423]

Caroline Flint: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 18 October 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking which organisations are assisting long term unemployed and disabled people into work in Luton under contract with his Department. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our main contracted provision for long term unemployed customers receiving Jobseeker's Allowance is through our New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 plus programmes. The Training Network Group is contracted to deliver these programmes in Luton, and they also deliver English for Speakers of Other Languages work placements and additional training for customers who have completed New Deal but have no job to start in the next four weeks.

New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 plus customers can also access:

New Deal Self Employment, contracted to Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services (NWES);

New Deal Mentoring which is contracted to Armstrong Learning;

New Deal for Musicians which is also contracted to Armstrong Learning; and

Progressive Steps, a European Social Fund contract, which addresses customers' barriers to work. SEETEC deliver this contract.

We also contract a range of provision for people with disabilities. Through our New Deal for Disabled People, we have contracts with the following Job Brokers: SEETEC, Royal British Legion Industries and Futura.

Work Preparation helps customers who have been out of work for a long time due to a disability or illness to help overcome any difficulties they might face when they return to work. Work Preparation is contracted to North Hertfordshire College and delivered by Dunstable College for Luton customers.

Disabled people can also access our WORKSTEP provision, delivered by Bedfordshire County Council, Watford Sheltered Work Shop, Papworth Trust, Shaw Trust, Remploy, Scope, Employment Opportunities and Royal British Legion Industries. WORKSTEP is a flexible programme designed to meet the individual needs of customers with disabilities and their employer.

People with disabilities can also be referred to a Disability Employment Adviser or Work Psychologist employed by Jobcentre Plus.

My District Manager for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, Carolyn Taylor, would be happy to brief you in more detail on the range of provision available in the Luton area. Carolyn can be contacted by post at Jobcentre Plus, Beauver House, 6 Brickett Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3JU, by telephone on 01727 773426 or by email at carolyn.taylor@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk.

I hope this is helpful.

Housing Benefit: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fraudulent claims for housing benefit there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by super-output area. [157194]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

Jobseekers Allowance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseekers allowance applications have been received from qualified or part-qualified home inspectors in the last 12 months. [157513]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Maternity Pay: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fraudulent applications for maternity pay there were in each of the last 10 years; and how many of the claimants were men. [157195]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Pension Credit: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of pension credit fraud were *(a)* opened and *(b)* successfully closed in each of the last three years. [157196]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Investigations into suspected cases of pension credit fraud

	Number of investigations	Investigations closed with a result[1]
2004-05	1,826	649
2005-06	5,291	2,563
2006-07	1,682	721

[1] A result is an investigation closed with an identified overpayment, underpayment, monetary value of adjustment or sanction.

Notes:

1. Pension credit came into effect in October 2003 so during 2004-05 the benefit had only been in place for six months which explains the low number of investigations.
2. The number of investigations into pension credit fraud reduced in 2006-07 as many of the cases that were previously investigated by Fraud Investigation Service were instead passed to the newly formed customer compliance team. Information regarding the number of customer compliance cases opened and successfully closed with a result is not available broken down by benefit.

Source:

Fraud Information by sector computer system

Pensions: Females

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proposals he intends to bring forward for women who do not have enough National Insurance contributions for a full state pension. [158252]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The Pensions Act 2007 introduced reforms that will ensure that, in 2010, almost 75 per cent. of women will be entitled to a full basic state pension when they reach state pension age. By 2020 around 90 per cent. of women and over 90 per cent. of men reaching state pension age will be entitled to a full basic state pension.

As set out in the 2007 pre-Budget report, during the Pensions Bill debate, proposals were made that individuals with gaps in their contribution record—particularly women and carers—should be able to buy voluntary national insurance contributions for a greater number of missed years than the system currently allows. The Government are continuing to analyse the options in terms of fairness, affordability and simplicity, and are holding informal discussions with stakeholders.

Pensions: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of pension or pension credit fraud were investigated where the false claimant was under 60 years old in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by government office region. [157186]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Remploy: Redundancy

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to ensure that no disabled people are subject to compulsory redundancies as a result of changes announced by the management of Remploy; and if he will make a statement. [156654]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* We have guaranteed that there will be no compulsory redundancies for disabled people. This was clearly highlighted in my statement to Parliament in July 2006 and reaffirmed by the Secretary of State's statement on 22 May 2007.

Where Remploy are proposing that a factory will close, disabled employees will be offered a range of options including voluntary redundancy, early retirement or a job with another local employer on their current Remploy terms and conditions, including membership of Remploy's pension scheme. Some disabled employees will have the opportunity to transfer to another Remploy factory.

A decision on the future of Remploy will be made, once we receive Remploy's final proposals later this year. Until then, no Government decision will be made concerning Remploy's factories.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many charges of benefit fraud were made in each of the last five years for which figures are available; how many such charges resulted in a prosecution in each year; and how many such prosecutions were successful in each year. [155933]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available regarding the number of charges for benefit fraud. Information regarding the number of prosecutions and convictions is in the following table.

Benefit fraud prosecutions and sanctions by DWP and local authorities

	Prosecutions	Convictions
2002-03	12,573	11,733
2003-04	13,891	12,844
2004-05	14,299	13,204
2005-06	16,852	15,088

Benefit fraud prosecutions and sanctions by DWP and local authorities

	Prosecutions	Convictions
2006-07	12,890	12,605

Notes:
1. Prosecutions and convictions figures include General Matching Service, Instrument of Payment (IOP) and Organised Fraud cases.
2. Prosecutions figures exclude cases withdrawn at court.

Source:
Fraud information by Sector and Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit Management Information Returns

United Kingdom Advisory Network on Disability Equality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the report of the meeting of the United Kingdom Advisory Network on Disability Equality held on 5 October. [158037]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The United Kingdom Advisory Network on Disability Equality, known as Equality 2025 did not have a meeting on the 5 October 2007.

Winter Fuel Payments: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fraudulent claims for winter fuel allowance there were in each of the last five years; and of these how many claimants were aged under 60 years. [157191]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

TREASURY

Global Business Plan

16. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Norwegian Prime Minister on the global business plan joint-initiative; and if he will make a statement. [158874]

Kitty Ussher: The UK is strongly committed to achieving the millennium development goals for health. Prime Ministers Brown and Stoltenberg jointly launched the International Health Partnership in September, which aims to improve the effectiveness of global health funding, and the UK strongly supports the Norwegian-led global campaign for the health MDGs. UK officials have worked closely with Norway and other international partners in developing the campaign.

Financial Advice

17. **Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to raise the quality of financial advice available to consumers. [158875]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Services Authority is reviewing the retail distribution of financial products, reporting next year. Adviser qualifications are part of this review.

The Government has asked Otto Thoresen to examine the feasibility of a high-quality national generic financial advice service. He will report in the new year. The Government will respond next spring.

Through its Financial Inclusion Fund, the Government have provided over £50 million to fund free face-to-face money advice for financially excluded people.

Tax Credits

18. **Peter Viggers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants of tax credits are being pursued for repayment; and what total sum is involved. [158876]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the format requested. Information on the number of families with an overpayment can be found in child and working tax credits statistics finalised awards supplement on payments on HMRC's website. Information on the amount to be recovered can be found in Chapter 2 Figure 4 of the Comptroller and Auditor General's standard report in the HM Revenue and Customs 2006-07 accounts.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who have claimed tax credits in the past and continue to be eligible for them but no longer claim them. [158867]

Jane Kennedy: A family's tax credit claim is renewed automatically as they finalise their previous year's award for tax credits if they continue to be eligible. Tax credits take-up is a success. The latest figures show that in 2004-05 take up of the child tax credit was 82 per cent. with over 90 per cent. of the money available being claimed, higher than any previous system of income-related financial support for in-work families.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking in response to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration's October 2007 report "Tax Credits: Getting it Wrong". [158872]

Jane Kennedy: I refer to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West (John Barrett).

Council Tax

19. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the impact of the spending plans announced in the comprehensive spending review on the level of council tax in the next three years. [158877]

Andy Burnham: As my right hon. Friend the Chancellor set out to this House in his pre-Budget report statement we expect the overall council tax rise over the next three years to be substantially below 5 per cent.

Youth Employment

20. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the impact of trends in youth employment on the UK economy. [158878]

22. **Joan Walley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the impact of trends in youth employment on the UK economy. [158880]

Angela Eagle: The number of young people unemployed and claiming benefits has fallen by 163,000 since 1997 and those on benefits for more than a year has been reduced by over 90 per cent.

Structural Deficit

21. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the UK's structural deficit in comparison to other EU economies; and if he will make a statement. [158879]

Kitty Ussher: Cyclically-adjusted net borrowing in the UK has averaged 1.0 per pent. of GDP over the current economic cycle. Over the same period, the structural balance has averaged 1.9 per cent. in the euro area, 2.1 per cent. in France, 2.3 per cent. in Germany and 2.8 per cent. in Italy.

23. **Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the reasons for the difference between the UK's structural deficit and those of the other major EU economies. [158881]

Kitty Ussher: Cyclically-adjusted net borrowing in the UK has averaged 1.0 per cent. of GDP over the current economic cycle. Over the same period, the structural balance has averaged 1.9 per cent. in the euro area, 2.1 per cent. in France, 2.3 per cent. in Germany and 2.8 per cent. in Italy.

With output close to or at trend throughout the projection period, the profile of cyclically-adjusted borrowing is very similar to that of headline PSNB. Cyclically-adjusted borrowing is slightly higher than the main aggregate in 2007-08 because the economy appears to be slightly above trend in this year.

Hedge Funds

24. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on the regulation of hedge funds. [158882]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Services Authority is responsible for the regulation of hedge fund managers operating in the UK. It has published a number of documents setting out its approach in this area. The Treasury discusses hedge fund regulation regularly with the FSA. The Financial Stability Forum has published five recommendations to improve the existing supervisory and market response to the risks of hedge funds and the Financial Services Authority is working closely with international supervisors to implement these.

Child Trust Fund

25. **Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on family savings patterns in the UK of the child trust fund. [158883]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Trust Fund will ensure that at age 18 all children have access to a financial asset. Over three million children now have a Child Trust Fund account and evidence suggests that levels of engagement with the scheme are high. Data on contributions into accounts will be published for the first time later this month and will enable us to assess the impact of the Child Trust Fund on family saving patterns going forward.

Children: Maintenance

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the effect of a decision to pay child benefit to a separated parent on the entitlement to *(a)* tax credits and *(b)* other benefits of the other parent, when both parents have applied for child benefit in relation to a child. [159106]

Jane Kennedy: Child benefit is a universal benefit which is non-contributory and paid to families regardless of income.

Ideally, separated parents will decide between themselves who should be entitled to receive child benefit. Only where the parents cannot decide who should be entitled will an officer on behalf of the commissioners of HMRC decide the matter.

In such cases, HMRC determines which parent has the greater responsibility on the basis of the information provided by both parents. Where it is appropriate, consideration will also be given to the impact on entitlement to other benefits of paying child benefit to one parent.

The tax credit system does not prevent child tax credit from being paid to a parent if they are not receiving child benefit, so long as they are mainly responsible for the child's day to day care.

Council Tax: Tax Yields

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the net revenue from council tax receipts was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Great Britain in each year since 1997-98; and if he will estimate what the revenue will be in each case in 2007-08. [158067]

Angela Eagle: Outturn and budget figures for net council tax receipts in England, Wales and Great Britain to 2006-07 are available from:

Communities and Local Government (CLG): Local Government Finance Statistics England (numbers 15, 16 and 17: table 2.2a). The 2006-07 figure for England can be found in Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing 2006-07 Provisional Outturn, table 2 at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/laout0607.pdf

Welsh Assembly Government: Statswales (table: Council Tax Collection, In-year council tax) at:

http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=396

Scottish Executive: Council Tax Collection Statistics (table 1) at:

http://www/.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/06/22095121/1

These figures are provided on a cash basis.

The aggregated estimate for net council tax receipts in 2007-08 for the UK is available from table B8 in the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review. The statistics in this table are determined on a national accounts accruals basis, so do not read across from the cash figures provided by CLG and the devolved Administrations.

A figure for England in 2007-08 is available from Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing 2007-08 Budget, table 2 at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/rev0708june07.pdf

Departments: Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties are held on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service database; and what property attributes are recordable for each property. [158408]

Jane Kennedy: The Electronic Property Information Mapping Service database holds records of 9,636 holdings (either whole buildings occupied by Government or parts of buildings). It also holds 2,578 land records.

Each property record contains:

1. General property details such as address, ownership, use, location.
2. Space details such as area occupied, vacant space, number of full-time equivalent staff.
3. Title Interest such as rent periods, break and review dates, rent and service charge payments.
4. Sub tenancies such as sublets outside of Government and internal Memorandum of Terms of Occupation (MOTOs) to Government Departments.
5. Environmental data such as annual electricity consumption, water consumption and total waste.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1001W, on Departments: sexual harassment, if he will place in the Library *(a)* copies of the Valuation Office Agency's Gender Equality Scheme and Action Plan and *(b)* the latest monitoring report for diversity strands. [158212]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the Agency's Gender Equality Scheme and Action Plan is published and available on the Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Copies of the Agency's Gender Equality Scheme and Action Plan and the latest Monitoring Report for the Agency will be placed in the Library.

Financial Services: Pay

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of recent trends in the levels of City bonuses. [158014]

Angela Eagle: Box 2.3 on page 23 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review sets out the impacts of the financial sector on the economy and public finances.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals the Valuation Office Agency has considered *(a)* to increase the amount of property attribute information on domestic dwellings online and *(b)* to publish council tax information with colour coded maps using Ordnance Survey data online; and what plans the Agency has to implement those proposals. [158059]

Jane Kennedy: None, following the completion of the council tax revaluation in Wales and the postponement of that in England.

Income Tax

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 384W, on income tax, (1) how many people who will experience a reduction in income will be *(a)* economically active and *(b)* inactive; [147819]

(2) how many *(a)* single adults, *(b)* families with one earner and *(c)* individuals in families with two earners will experience a reduction in income, broken down by sex; [147820]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people with annual incomes of *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* £10-£15,000, *(c)* £15-20,000 and *(d)* £20,000 and above whose income will be reduced by the abolition of the 10p income tax rate; [147990]

(4) what estimate he has made of the numbers of *(a)* single adults earning less than £18,500, *(b)* families with two earners whose tax rise is not met by tax credit changes, *(c)* women aged between 60 and 64 and *(d)* workers who have prematurely retired and do not qualify for the higher pensioner tax allowance whose income will be reduced by the abolition of the 10p income tax rate; [148003]

(5) how many of the three million taxpayers whose incomes will be reduced by the abolition of the 10p income tax rate and who will not gain from the cut in the basic rate of tax to 20p, will have their incomes reduced by *(a)* under £1, *(b)* between £1 and £3, *(c)* between £3 and £5 and *(d)* between £5 and £10 a week. [148308]

Jane Kennedy: The removal of the 10p rate of income tax on earned income was part of a package of reforms announced in Budget 2007. The exact effect of the reforms will depend both on individual incomes,

and on the circumstances of the household in which people live, for example whether they have children and their age.

As a result of the personal tax reforms announced in Budget 2007 21 million households are better off or no worse off.

Of those households that will see their income rise due to the reforms, the following table shows the distribution of households by change in their weekly income.

Change in weekly income	*Number of households (million)*
Increase by less than £1	3.0
Increase between £1 and £3	4.7
Increase between £3 and £5	3.2
Increase between £5 and £10	4.0
Increase by more than £10 a week	1.0

Of the 5.3 million households that will pay marginally more in net tax—on average less than a half per cent. of net income—the following table shows the distribution of households by change in their weekly income.

Change in weekly income	*Number of households[1] (million)*
Decrease by less than £1	1.5
Decrease between £1 and £3	2.2
Decrease between £3 and £5	1.1
Decrease between £5 and £10	0.4
Decrease by more than £10 a week	0.0

[1] Rows may not sum to total due to rounding.

Of these 5.3 million households, around 900,000 households contain a single adult, who see their income decreased by £1.45 a week on average, a further 700,000 are households with more than one adult but with a single 'earner', who see their income decreased by £2.00 a week on average, and around 3.3 million households who are worse off have two or more adults who are defined as 'earners', who see their income decreased by £2.60 a week on average.

Around 4.8 million of these 5.3 million households contain at least one adult who is economically active, who see their income decreased by £2.30 a week on average, and around 0.5 million losing households only contain economically inactive adults, who see their income decreased by £2.05 a week on average. Some 0.8 million are single adults with an income below £18,500, who see their income decreased by £1.45 a week on average, and 0.6 million are women aged between 60 and 64, who see their income decreased by £1.95 a week on average. An adult is defined as an 'earner' if they are economically active.

Of these 5.3 million, 0.9 million have a household reference person with an income under £10,000 a year, 1.1 million have a household reference person with an income between £10,000 and £15,000 a year, 1.5 million have a household reference person with an income between £15,000 and £20,000 a year, and 1.8 million have a household reference person with an income between £10,000 and £20,000 a year. The Household Reference Person is the person who owns the accommodation or is legally responsible for the rent. If this should apply to more than one person in the household, then they are the one with the highest income.

The estimates are for 2009-10 and have been calculated by comparing against a base that has been increased in line with inflation, using the 2004-05 Expenditure and Food Survey.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated impact is on *(a)* 16 to 18-year-olds in work, *(b)* single people aged 18 to 65 years, *(c)* lone parents where the parent works fewer than 25 hours per week, *(d)* lone parents where the parent works more than 25 hours per week, *(e)* two parent/adult families with one child, *(f)* two parent/adult families with two children and *(g)* two parent/adult families with three children earning (i) less than £15,000 per annum, (ii) £15,000 to £20,000 per annum, (iii) £20,000 to £25,000 per annum, (iv) £25,000 to £30,000 per annum, (v) £30,000 to £35,000 per annum, (vi) £35,000 to £40,000 per annum, (vii) £40,000 to £45,000 per annum, (viii) £45,000 to £50,000 per annum, (ix) £50,000 to £55,000 per annum and (x) £55,000 to £60,000 per annum of the abolition of the 10p starting rate in income tax and the 2p reduction in the standard rate. [130214]

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage change is in *(a)* income tax and *(b)* employee national insurance contributions arising from budget changes for individuals (i) at or over the state pension age and (ii) below the state pension age with an income of (A) £60,000 per annum, (B) £30,00 per annum and (C) £15,000 per annum. [131600]

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on incomes in each year up to 2011 of *(a)* changes to personal allowances, *(b)* the removal of the 10p tax rate and *(c)* the reduction of the basic rate of income tax to 20 pence on people born (i) before and (ii) after 1935 with incomes of (A) £8,000, (B) £9,000, (C) £10,000, (D) £11,000, (E) £12,000, (F) 13,000, (G) £14,000, (H) £15,000, (I) £16,000, (J) £17,000 and (K) £18,000. [136787]

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the average change in income tax which has to be paid by a 21-year-old single person living in Poole working full-time on the minimum wages as a result of the measures announced in the 2007 Budget. [151580]

Jane Kennedy: Budget 2007 announced a number of reforms to simplify the personal tax system. The exact effect of the reforms will depend both on individual incomes, and on the circumstances of the household in which people live, for example whether they have children and their age.

Projected changes in net income in 2009-10 as a result of this package are shown in the following tables. Net incomes are based on a single earner with gross earned income as specified, net of income tax and employee national insurance contributions, and including child benefit and tax credits (non-pensioner

families) or pension credit (pensioner families). The projections assume full take-up of entitlements to tax credits where applicable, without child care costs or disability premiums.

Change in net income by April 2009 (2009-10 prices £ a year)

Annual earning	Single person/single earner couple (aged under 25)	Single person (aged 25+)	Single earner couple (aged 25+)
£0	0	0	0
£5,000	0	0	0
£10,000	-197	175	175
£15,000	-97	-97	175
£20,000	3	3	3
£25,000	103	103	103
£30,000	203	203	203
£35,000	303	303	303
£40,000	121	121	121
£45,000	12	12	12
£50,000	12	12	12
£55,000	12	12	12
£60,000	12	12	12

	Lone parent/single earner couple with children		
Annual earnings	One child	Two children	Three children
£0	160	320	481
£5,000	160	320	481
£10,000	335	495	655
£15,000	335	495	655
£20,000	336	496	656
£25,000	103	496	656
£30,000	203	203	656
£35,000	303	303	303
£40,000	121	121	121
£45,000	12	12	12.40
£50,000	12	12	12.40
£55,000	12	12	12.40
£60,000	12	12	12.40

Annual income	Single pensioner/single income couple pensioner (aged 65-74)	Single pensioner/single income couple pensioner (aged 75+)
£0	0	0
£5,000	0	0
£10,000	416	416
£15,000	96	96
£20,000	196	196
£25,000	323	323
£30,000	203	203
£35,000	303	303
£40,000	403	403
£45,000	610	610
£50,000	610	610
£55,000	610	610
£60,000	610	610

Notes:
1. Other than the changes announced at Budget 2007 this assumes normal indexation of personal allowances, thresholds and limits.
2. National insurance contributions (NICs) are assumed to be paid at the class one not contracted out rate.
3. Only individuals aged 16-64 for males and 16-59 for females are liable for NICs. Therefore there is no change in NICs liability for individuals aged outside of these age ranges.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the monetary benefit of the cut in the basic rate of income tax announced in Budget 2007 to take effect in April 2008 will go to *(a)* the poorest 10 per cent. of the population and *(b)* the richest 40 per cent. of the population; and if he will make a statement. [150897]

Jane Kennedy: The cut in the basic rate of income tax announced in Budget 2007 was part of a package of reforms designed to simplify the tax and benefit system. The following table shows the gain by income decile from the reforms taken together.

Income decile	Percentage change in net household income
Bottom	0.77
2nd	0.81
3rd	0.62
4th	0.29
5th	0.17
6th	0.16
7th	0.21
8th	0.32
9th	0.46
Top	0.31

The measures announced in Budget 2007 are part of ongoing reform of the tax and benefit system since 1997. Since 1997, these changes have benefited those at the bottom of the income distribution most, with over a fifth of the net gains going to the bottom tenth of the income distribution, compared to around a tenth going to the top four income deciles.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the scheme of relief for inheritance tax for current and former spouses announced in the pre-Budget report will be extended to cover those whose spouse died under the estate duty regime applicable until 1974; and if he will make a statement. [157952]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor announced in his pre-Budget report statement that the transferable inheritance tax allowance is available to all existing widows, widowers or bereaved civil partners. This includes those whose spouse died under the estate duty regime.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give consideration to the possibility of extending his inheritance tax exemption transfer to cohabiting couples who can indicate that they have not married or entered into a civil partnership because they are of different religions or have special circumstances. [158009]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor announced in his pre-Budget report that the combined IHT allowance for married couples and civil partners is now £600,000, rising to £700,000 in April 2010. This combined allowance will apply where IHT spouse relief is already applicable to transfers between the two partners.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue was raised via inheritance tax in *(a)* England and *(b)* the United Kingdom in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07; [158410]

(2) how many estates paid inheritance tax in *(a)* England and *(b)* the United Kingdom in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07. [158415]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available for England. The following tables show figures for the United Kingdom, and for England and Wales combined.

Inheritance tax receipts

£ billion

	United Kingdom	*England and Wales*
1996-97	1.6	1.4
2006-07	3.5	3.3

Estates paying inheritance tax

	United Kingdom	*England and Wales*
1996-97	[1]17,900	16,100
2006-07	33,000	30,700

[1] The figure of 17,900 in 1996-97 is a revision of the previously published figure of 15,000.

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the financial impact of the proposed changes in inheritance tax on *(a)* single parent families and *(b)* divorced couples. [159275]

Jane Kennedy: Following the changes to inheritance tax announced by the Chancellor in the pre-Budget report, every individual will benefit from a tax-free allowance of £300,000 whatever their marital status. Previous Budgets have announced that this allowance will rise faster than forecast inflation in each of the next three years reaching £350,000 in April 2010.

Inheritance Tax: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much inheritance tax was collected from residents of Hampshire in each year since 1997 in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [158814]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for amounts of inheritance tax collected are not available at local levels.

Inheritance Tax: Tax Yields

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue was received by the Treasury from inheritance tax in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency. [158084]

Jane Kennedy: Information on total inheritance tax receipts is published by HMRC at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/table121.pdf

Figures are not available for inheritance tax received at local levels.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letters of 21 May and 31 July 2007 from the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West in relation to his constituent Mrs. Deborah Karimi. [158769]

Jane Kennedy: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Microgeneration: Finance

Helen Southworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward fiscal measures to encourage UK businesses to develop production of microgeneration for supply of energy for domestic and commercial consumption. [159100]

Angela Eagle: All taxes are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

The Government have introduced a number of measures in support of microgeneration including reduced VAT on installations; access to renewable obligation certificates; and tax exemptions for revenues earned from domestically generated electricity exported to the grid. Further to this, the Government announced, at pre-Budget report 2007, that microgeneration investments will not be included in ad hoc re-assessments of business rates liability from 2008, subject to state aid clearance.

The Government have also set out, in their Microgeneration Strategy and Energy White Paper, measures to help support and develop the microgeneration industry.

Personal Income

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households have total income in excess of £50,000 per year; and what percentage of all households that figure represents. [157393]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

We estimate that there are 4.3 million households in the UK with total gross annual income in excess of £50,000. This is 17 per cent. of all households in the UK.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, UK 2005-06

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1980W, on stamp duties, what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of first time buyers who were exempt from stamp duty land tax in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* 1997. [158061]

Kitty Ussher: No estimate has been made of the proportion of first time buyers who were exempt from stamp duty (the forerunner to stamp duty land tax) in 1996 or 1997.

Stamp Duties: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much stamp duty was collected arising from sales of Hampshire properties in each year since 1997 in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [158815]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the stamp duty land tax yield at county level are not available for years prior to 2005-06. Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are provided in the following tables from the HMRC website:

2005-06

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-4-0506.pdf

2006-07

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-4-0607.pdf

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people are registered as non-domiciled for tax purposes; how many of them are *(a)* resident, *(b)* ordinarily resident and *(c)* non-resident; and what (i) UK and (ii) foreign income was declared by each group in the most recent year for which figures are available; [155851]

(2) when he expects figures for the number of individuals indicating non-domicile tax status through their self-assessment returns in 2005-06 to be available. [155853]

Jane Kennedy: The last full year's data relate to 2004-05, in which there were 115,000 non-domiciles. HMRC's live systems show the latest figure (as at August 2007) for 2005-06 is 114,000 non-domiciles however HMRC expect more returns to be processed. Data on incomes are only available annually—the annual data (as at April 2007) for 2005-06 showed the following:

	Non-domiciles	*Not-ordinarily residents*
Number of individuals	111,000	29,000
Total declared UK taxable income, of which:	11.9	1.0
remitted foreign income (£ billion)	0.2	0.1
Reported non-taxable unremitted foreign employment income (£ billion)	0.7	0.1

Taxation: Pensioners

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners will experience a higher marginal deduction rate as a result of the changes announced in the 2007 Budget. [143315]

Jane Kennedy: Budget 2007 reforms to personal taxation included increases to higher personal allowances for those aged 65 and over by £1,180 above indexation in April 2008, removing around 600,000 pensioners from paying tax, and ensuring that around 95 per cent. of pensioner households either gain or are unaffected by the reforms overall. Pensioner households are on average £1,450 a year better off in real terms since 1997.

We estimate that marginal deduction rates will fall for around 2.8 million pensioner heads of household in 2009-10 as a result of the reforms, and that they may rise for around 600,000 pensioner heads of household, in most cases reflecting changes in marginal rates of income tax. Not all of those with higher marginal deduction rates will be worse off as allowances have risen.

These estimates reflect today's pensioner population, projected tax and benefit parameters in 2009-10.

Unpaid Taxes

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* amount of uncollected tax that was written off by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 1997 and *(b)* the proportion of uncollected tax written off in each year which was due to taxpayer insolvency. [159018]

Jane Kennedy: Details of revenue losses including tax written off by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is published annually in the departmental accounts and are available on the departmental website. The information on the proportion of tax written off by HMRC and its legacy Departments attributable to taxpayer insolvency from 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handout produced by representatives of the Valuation Office Agency at the workshop on automated valuation models of real estate for cadastral purposes organised by the Permanent Committee on the Cadastre in the European Union held at Santiago de Compostela, Spain, in October 2006. [158060]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the presentation has been placed in the Library. No handouts were issued.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the final report of the Gateway Review by the Valuation and Lands Agency for the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Implementation Project and the Public Interface Project; [158062]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the net revenue generated from domestic rates, including district and regional rates, in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [158068]

(3) how much revenue was generated from domestic rates in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997-98. [158069]

Angela Eagle: These are matters for the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, an agency within the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what work is being carried out by the Valuation Office Agency into the merits of acquiring a geographic information system. [158064]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency is considering the merits of procuring a geographic information system and commissioned its IT partner, Aspire, to prepare a design proposal.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1018W, on the Valuation Office Agency, what the purpose was of the visit to Japan by the Valuation Office Agency. [158285]

Jane Kennedy: The International Property Tax Institute (IPTI) was invited to meet with officials in Japan to discuss their local property tax system and a member of the VOA attended that meeting in his capacity as a member of the IPTI Advisory Board. IPTI met all the costs involved.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Toolkit was last updated. [158412]

Jane Kennedy: The Council Tax Toolkit is a live set of training modules on the Valuation Office Agency's intranet, which are continually being updated.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency makes of unique property reference numbers. [158416]

Jane Kennedy: The VOA uses unique property reference numbers to distinguish individual property records.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many invitations to tender *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs has issued since January 2003; and for what purpose in each case. [158404]

Jane Kennedy: VOA have not directly placed any Invitations to Tender in the OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) since January 2003.

The following is a list of contracts advertised through OJEU—a total of 76 Invitations to Tender (ITTs) were issued since January 2003. As HM Revenue and Customs was formed on 18 April 2005 following the merger of HM Customs and Excise (HM C and E) and Inland Revenue (IR), information for years prior to the merger are shown for the respective departments.

The list excludes any contracts awarded through Government-wide Framework Agreements and collaborative tenders where HMRC are not the contracting authority.

Invitation to tender	
2003	HM C and E: Records Management
February 2003	HM C and E: Baggage X-Ray Machines
March 2003	HM C and E: Provision of Legal Services in Scotland
May 2003	IR: Electronic Completion of Income Tax Assessment
August 2003	HM C and E: Forensic Examination of Telephone Equipment
July 2003	HM C and E: Business Advice Day Sponsorship
July 2003	HM C and E: Payroll Management Services
August 2003	HM C and E: Security Transport Services
October 2003	HM C and E: Civil Recovery of Debt Services
October 2003	IR: Collection, Transportation and Disposal of Products of Animal Origin
November 2003	HM C and E: Haulage, Storage and Disposal of Seized Fuel Products, Chemicals
November 2003	HM C and E: Economics and Commercial Awareness Training
December 2003	HM C and E: Narcotics and Explosives Trace Detectors
2004	IR: Print, Mailing and Print Management
2004	Training Services
2004	IR: Vehicle Hire Car and Van Rental
2004	IR: ASPIRE IT Services
2004	IR: Fleet Management
January 2004	IR: Employers Orderline and Mailings
January 2004	HM C and E: Tax Stamps
February 2004	IR: Medals and Insignia

Invitation to tender	
February 2004	HM C and E: Office Furniture Contract
April 2004	HM C and E: Collection, Transportation and Disposal of Products of Animal Origin and Plant Based Goods
April 2004	HM C and E: Vehicle Conversion for Road Fuel Testing
April 2004	IR: Sortation of Incoming and Outgoing Post
May 2004	HM C and E: Security Printing
June 2004	IR: Collection and Delivery of International Mail
June 2004	HM C and E: Provision of Work Wear, Personal Protective Equipment and H and S Clothing
July 2004	HM C and E: Illicit Drugs Detection System
July 2004	HM C and E: Courtroom Skills Training
August 2004	IR: Electronic Self-Assessment Filing Partnerships
October 2004	HM C and E: Airside Vehicle Management
October 2004	IR: Supply and Maintenance of Post Room Machinery, Equipment, Furniture
October 2004	IR: Distribution of Government Publications
November 2004	HM C and E: Design and Delivery of Taxation Training
December 2004	HM C and E: Static X-Ray Machines
December 2004	HM C and E: Mobile X-Ray Units
2005	Sprint: IT Hardware and Software
2005	IS Consultancy
2005	Delivery and Management of Business Link
2005	Detection Equipment
2005	Eyesight Testing
2005	Satellite Communication
March 2005	HM C and E: Production and Distribution of Duty Stamps
April 2005	Provision of Radiation Protection Advice Services
June 2005	Supply of Relocatable Scanners to HM Revenue and Customs
July 2005	Government Banking Project
July 2005	Audit Professionalism Training
August 2005	Supply of Radio Batteries
October 2005	Scientific Referrals
November 2005	Bulk Scanning Services
2006	Medical Assistance for Staff Travelling Abroad
2006	IT Consumables
2006	Mobile Telephone and SMS Contract
2006	Occupational Health and Screening Services
April 2006	Secure Collection and Transportation of High Value/High Risk Items
April 2006	Vehicle Lease Contract Hire
May 2006	Vehicle Disposal
August 2006	Specialist Consultancy Framework
August 2006	Press Cuttings and Media Services
October 2006	Specialist Coaching and Development Framework
November 2006	Professional Role Player Framework
November 2006	Remedial Works to Bradford Contact Centre
January 2007	Castle Meadow Office Support Services Contract
May 2007	Law Costs Draftsmen Framework Agreement
June 2007	Radio Communications Solution
June 2007	Managed Services for Residential Staff Training Facility
June 2007	Detection Equipment
August 2007	Information Technology Services: Import and Export Processing
August 2007	Disposal of Office Furniture, Office Machines and Sundry Office Equipment
July 2007	Records Management Service
August 2007	Emergency Medical Responder Training
August 2007	Customer Insight Framework
August 2007	Recruitment and Related Services
August 2007	Firearms and Explosives Safety Awareness Training
September 2007	Bathgate AC Remedial Works Contract (Estates)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Invitation to Tender issued by the Valuation Office Agency in October 2004 on the provision of Access to Property Data. [158413]

Jane Kennedy: The Invitation to Tender was issued in the form of a proposal to potential suppliers. This is available in Appendix 1 of the contract between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.co.uk Ltd. and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1969W.

Valuation Office: Manuals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1189W, on the Valuation Office: manuals, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Referencing Manual. [158281]

Jane Kennedy: A copy has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the title is of each of the Valuation Office Agency's learning manuals. [158401]

Jane Kennedy: The following learning documents are currently available to Valuation Office Agency staff:

Rating Support Application (RSA) Induction training support materials

RSA Data Retrieval training support materials

RSA Reconstitutions training support materials

RSA Rental Adjustment and Analysis training support materials

RSA Quality Assurance training support materials

RSA Forms of Return training support materials

RSA Case Registration training support materials

RSA training support materials

RSA Survey Data training support materials

RSA Valuation training support materials

RSA Scales and Matrices training support materials

RSA Overview training support materials

RSA Programming training support materials

RSA Management Information training support materials

RSA Procedures Manual

RSA - First Steps Guide

IT Services Division (ITSD) IT Training Information

District Valuer Services (DVS) Caseworker Support IT training support materials

Defence Support Package (DSP) IT application training support materials

CRAC, MILO, 1990 Rating Enquiries IT application work aids and trainer notes

Digital Mapping User Guide

Digital Photography User Guide

Microsoft Applications IT trainer notes

VOA Management Development guides and workbooks

NDR Referencers Manual

CT Referencers Manual

Zoning of shops handbook

Valuation Office: New Zealand

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings the Valuation Office Agency has had in New Zealand in the last 36 months; and what conferences it has attended. [158399]

Jane Kennedy: The VOA has not had any formal meetings, or attended any conferences, in New Zealand in the last 36 months. The International Property Tax Institute (IPTI) was invited to meet with officials in New Zealand to discuss their local property tax system and a member of the VOA attended that meeting in his capacity as a member of the IPTI Advisory Board. IPTI met all the costs involved.

Valuation Office: Visits Abroad

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1020W, on the Valuation Office Agency: visits abroad, what the title of the Lithuania conference was; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the handouts and presentation given by the representatives of the Agency to the conference. [158282]

Jane Kennedy: The title of the conference in Lithuania was "Role of Property Taxation-Local Revenue Mobilization". It was a conference organised by the International Property Tax Institute in conjunction with the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation along with the co-operation of the State Enterprise Centre of Registers of Lithuania.

The conference was public and a copy of the presentation made by a member of the Valuation Office Agency at the conference has been placed in the Library.

VAT: Parish Councils

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in the explorations by his officials regarding the VAT status of parish meetings referred to in the answer of 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1174W, on parish councils; and if he will make a statement. [157965]

Jane Kennedy: The VAT status of parish meetings remains under review, including whether any change to the current position would deliver cost-effective benefits that are consistent with the objectives outlined in 'Strong and Prosperous Communities', the Government White Paper on the future role and structure of local government published in October 2006.

VAT: Sunscreens

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to reduce VAT on suncare products; and if he will make a statement. [158451]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 998W.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, on tax credit administration, how many households have been written to by HM Revenue and Customs to inform them that their tax credit case is being reviewed; [158606]

(2) what deadline HM Revenue and Customs has adopted for completion of the reviews of the 160,000 tax credit cases described in the written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, on tax credit administration. [158607]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs have written to around 175,000 households to advise them that they will be reviewing their tax credits awards from 2003-04 and 2004-05, and to around 75,000 recipients about their 2005-06 awards.

These are cases where new information came to light that reduced tax credit entitlement after the award for that year had been finalised and closed. The vast majority of those affected will not see any impact on their tax credits award and no-one will be worse off as a result of this issue.

The planned programme of work to review these awards has now started and will be completed in three years. The time span reflects the need to put these cases on a sound footing as soon as practicable while ensuring HM Revenue and Customs continues to improve the service it provides to tax credits claimants. The plans include ensuring that those where the overpayment is greatest will be reviewed first, and priority will also be given to those where there is an outstanding query about the overpayment.

Written Questions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer question 143315, on marginal deduction rates, tabled by the hon. Member for Twickenham on 13 June 2007. [152500]

Jane Kennedy: I have answered the hon. Member's question and very much regret not being in a position to do so earlier.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer question 136787, on taxation and allowances, tabled on 8 May 2007 by the hon. Member for Blaydon. [156858]

Jane Kennedy: I have answered the hon. Member's question and very much regret not being in a position to do so earlier.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Channel Islands

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what military goods have been licensed for export to the Channel Islands from the UK in the last three years. [158736]

Mr. Thomas: The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, including the number of military export licences approved for the Channel Islands, in their Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395474

The Government have published quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls since January 2004 and these are also available from this website.

Bevin Boys

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the progress to date of introducing the individual recognition scheme for the Bevin Boys. [159276]

Malcolm Wicks: The application process for the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge was launched on 24 September and the first Badge will be awarded to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the demobilisation of the final Bevin Boys in March 2008. The Badge is available to all survivors who, either through compulsion or on a voluntary basis, worked in the mines under the Bevin Boys' scheme rather than serving in the armed forces. The widows of eligible men who died on or after 20 June 2007, the date of introduction, are also eligible. To date, some 600 applications have been received.

Defence Equipment: Exhibitions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which Ministers from his Department attended the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition in September. [158780]

Mr. Timms: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, attended the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition, as did the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, and the Minister for Trade Promotion and Investment.

Derelict Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what definition of brownfield land is used for the Regional Development Agency's target on the amount of brownfield land that is reclaimed or redeveloped. [158123]

Mr. Timms: The regional development agencies use the definition of brownfield land as specified in the Core Outputs Technical Note drawn up by the Office of Project Advice and Training (OffPat), which states that brownfield land

"includes contaminated, derelict or previously developed land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings), and associated fixed surface infrastructure within the curtilage of the development."

Details are available on the OffPat website:
http:/www.offpat.info/

Electricity Generation: Landfill

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what total amount of electricity was generated in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK from landfill gas in each year since its introduction as a fuel for electricity generation. [159188]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested first became available in 1990 and is as follows. Data for Scotland are not separately available before 2000:

GWh

	Electricity generated from landfill gas	
	Scotland	*United Kingdom*
1990	—	139
1991	—	208
1992	—	377
1993	—	447
1994	—	517
1995	—	562
1996	—	708
1997	—	918
1998	—	1,185
1999	—	1,703
2000	69	2,188
2001	109	2,507
2002	157	2,679
2003	228	3,276
2004	339	4,004
2005	395	4,290
2006	424	4,424

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2007, Table 7.1.1 and Energy Trends September 2007 pages 16 to 23 and corresponding articles in September 2003, September 2002 and December 2001.

Estate Agents

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when he expects the Office of Fair Trading to make a decision on the approved scheme to run an estate agent redress scheme from April 2008; [155912]

(2) whether he expects the Office of Fair Trading to approve only one scheme to run an estate agent redress scheme from April 2008; [155913]

(3) how many applications or expressions of interest the Office of Fair Trading has received to run an approved estate agent redress scheme from April 2008. [155914]

Mr. Thomas: The OFT will shortly publish the criteria it will use when assessing applications to run a redress scheme together with an invitation for scheme operators to submit applications for approval of their redress scheme. To date there have therefore been no applications or formal expressions of interest.

Subject to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) receiving a suitable application to run an estate agents redress scheme, the OFT may be in a position to approve a scheme in late February or early March 2008.

There is not a pre-determined number of schemes that the OFT is expected to approve—there could be one or more approved schemes.

Farepack: Compensation

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on progress with the assistance offered to those affected by the Farepak collapse; and what *(a)* compensation and *(b)* restitution they have received. [159026]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are entirely sympathetic to the plight of those who lost money in the Farepak collapse. They were strongly supportive of the commendable efforts of the Farepak response fund appeal which raised £8 million from business and members of the public to help those affected.

It is the central duty of the liquidators to realise as much as possible for the benefit of all of the creditors of the collapsed company. The timing and level of any dividend payment to unsecured creditors (including the agents and customers) is as yet uncertain. On present information, however, the dividend will be approximately five pence in the pound.

For the future, the Government have taken steps to provide better protection and information for consumers. They have worked with the other hamper companies to put in place greater protection for customers' prepayments, and are pleased to note the initiative of the companies in improving security for consumers' money, which is now held in trust accounts under the control of independent trustees. The arrangements within the individual companies will be monitored by a new trade body, the Christmas Prepayments Association, with a new code of practice to ensure that customer protection measures are established and operated effectively.

The Government have also given the OFT funding for a consumer education campaign so that consumers are better aware of their options for Christmas savings and empowered to make decisions that are right for their own circumstances.

Farepak: Insolvency

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made by the inquiry set up by his predecessor Department to investigate the Farepak collapse. [159042]

Mr. Timms: The investigation will be completed as soon as possible consistent with the need for a thorough enquiry into the matters of concern.

On completion, the findings will be studied to decide what follow up action is justified.

Ministers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total estimated annual cost is of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space, *(d)* administrative support and *(e)* special advisers for the new Minister of State in his Department. [154628]

Mr. Thomas: The total estimated annual cost for the new Secretary of State in BERR is £761,259 broken down as follows:

	£
(a) Expenses	217,000
(b) Salary	77,000
(c) Office space	28,152
(d) Administrative support	295,107
(e) Special advisers	145,000
Total	761,259

Overseas Trade: Burma

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice his Department has issued to British companies undertaking business in Burma. [156761]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have a long-standing policy of not encouraging British firms to trade with or invest in Burma. We offer no commercial services or support to companies wishing to trade with or invest in Burma. British companies who inquire about trade with Burma are informed of the grave political situation, the regime's atrocious record on human rights and the country's dire economic prospects.

They are reminded that the UK is party to the EU's "Common Position" on Burma, which imposes sanctions on Burma, including a ban on EU companies investing in certain Burmese state-owned companies.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what monitoring the Government undertakes of British business activities in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [156762]

Mr. Thomas: We do follow reports on business activities in Burma produced by the UN, NGOs and other organisations. We monitor the level of UK corporate activities through statistics from Office for National Statistics and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, which show that trade with and investment in Burma has fallen in recent years.

Overseas Trade: Maldives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports of (i) goods and (ii) services between the Maldives and the United Kingdom was in each of the last 10 years. [159643]

Mr. Thomas: (i) Overseas Trade Statistics data for UK trade in goods with the Maldives are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK imports of goods from the Maldives	*UK exports of goods to the Maldives*
1997	9.7	7.4
1998	11.2	4.5
1999	5.5	4.9
2000	6.8	5.1
2001	6.4	5.0
2002	7.2	3.0
2003	6.8	5.9
2004	10.5	7.7
2005	11.7	8.9
2006	14.3	6.2

(ii) Data on trade in services are not available for the full 10 years requested. Table 9.13 of the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2007 gives the following figures for UK trade in services with the Maldives:

£ million

	UK imports of services from the Maldives	*UK exports of services to the Maldives*
2005	84	7
2006	92	9

Christmas Savings: Protection

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on implementing the recommendations of the Pomeroy Review of Christmas hamper savings schemes. [159027]

Mr. Timms: There has been substantial progress in implementing the recommendations of the Pomeroy Review of Christmas savings schemes since its publication in March 2007.

Firstly, the Government have taken steps to provide better protection and information for consumers. They have worked with the other hamper companies to put in place effective protection for customers' prepayments, and are pleased to note the initiative of the companies in improving security for consumers' money, which is now held in trust accounts under the control of independent trustees. The arrangements within the individual companies will be monitored by a new trade body, the Christmas Prepayments Association, with a new code of practice to ensure that customer protection measures are established and operated effectively.

In response to the recommendation on mounting an awareness campaign, the Government have given the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) funding for a consumer education campaign so that consumers are better aware of their options for Christmas savings and empowered to make decisions that are right for their own circumstances. The OFT education programme is delivering face-to-face sessions for consumers across the UK. The sessions, run by community groups, explain the options for people and help them to

choose the best way to save for them as individuals, pointing out the features of the alternatives. This work is being well received and will continue to be delivered into 2008.

The OFT were also asked to consider whether there were any competition issues in the hamper scheme market. The OFT examined the merger of Park Group and Home Farm Hampers and found that alternative sources of saving operated as a constraint on the merging parties. This is because the majority of customers are prepared to consider switching between a wide range of savings products. No competition concerns were raised either by competitors or customers.

As detailed in the review, a number of credit unions across the country have historically also offered Christmas saving accounts, and this number increased significantly after the collapse of Farepak. There are now more than 100 such accounts. The OFT's "Save Xmas" campaign has provided consumers with information on all Christmas saving options, including credit union Christmas and regular saving accounts. This will ensure consumers have the necessary information to choose the right product for their needs. The Financial Inclusion Taskforce has reported that Post Office Limited's plans to launch a Christmas saving product is progressing.

The Government's work on financial inclusion and capability has responded to the recommendation that informal saving schemes be given greater emphasis. In addition to the OFT "Save Xmas" campaign, the Department for Work and Pension's "now let's talk money" campaign, which provides people with information and support in accessing financial services, is providing guidance on the different ways in which people can save. The Thoresen review on generic financial advice, which will shortly be publishing an interim report, with a final report to follow early next year, is considering the provision of guidance on informal savings. And the FSA's "money made clear" website also has information on Christmas saving schemes.

Finally, on the recommendation relating to Government awareness of all methods of savings, the new wealth and assets survey is collecting information on informal saving. Interim findings from the first wave of data collection will be published by the end of the year.

Postal Services: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely effect on carbon emissions of *(a)* the proposed introduction of outreach service points to replace certain post offices branches in (i) the UK and (ii) Suffolk Coastal and *(b)* the proposed closure of post offices in (A) the UK and (B) Suffolk Coastal. [158890]

Mr. McFadden: No such estimates have been made by my Department. But, in developing its proposals for post office closures and new outreach service points, Post Office Ltd takes into account the Government's access criteria and wider factors relating to accessibility of post office services.

Royal Mail: Strikes

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated cost to *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* UK business has been of the recent Royal Mail dispute. [159191]

Mr. McFadden: We have not estimated the costs of the dispute. It is clear that the strikes have impacted on business. The Federation of Small Businesses reports that 94 per cent. of small businesses rely on the Royal Mail as their provider of postal services.

Small Businesses: Advisory Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of planned expenditure on business support and promotion of enterprise for 2007-08 and each financial year to 2010-11. [157928]

Mr. Timms: The Department plans to spend the amounts shown in the table on business support and promotion of enterprise in 2007-08. Plans for future years are subject to the normal business planning process following the recent announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review and the outcome of the Business Support Simplification Programme.

The amounts shown relate only to those products or services that are funded directly by the Department or are centrally designed but funded through the RDAs' 'single pot' (e.g. the Manufacturing Advisory Service). So, for instance, it excludes regionally designed business support products and schemes as well as expenditure on regional enterprise promotion activities (which are funded from the RDAs' 'single pot'), as this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure plans 2007-08

Business support products	*Amount (£ million)*
Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme	71.7
Equity Investment Funds (e.g. Enterprise Capital Funds, Regional Venture Capital Funds, Early Growth Funds)	61.0
Sustainable Energy Capital Grants	37.8
Business Performance Diagnostics	1.4
Manufacturing Advisory Service—funded through RDAs' single pot	6.0
Selective Finance for Investment in England (cases of greater than £2 million)	32
Selective Finance for Investment in England (cases of less than £2 million)—funded through RDAs' single pot	66
Promotion of Enterprise includes funding for the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Insight (e.g. the Make Your Mark campaign, Enterprise Week and the Enterprising Britain competition)	6.8

Small Businesses: Regulation

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures he is taking to reduce the burden of regulation on small and medium sized businesses. [158667]

Mr. McFadden: Government have embarked upon one of the most radical programmes of regulatory reform in the world. For the first time ever, government departments have published rolling simplification programmes—outlining measures to reduce burdens for business. That is why we attach particular importance to better regulation and are committed to reducing the burden of regulation on business by 25 per cent.—a total saving across government of £2 billion by 2010, with BERR playing its part, reducing its burden by about £700 million by 2010.

Tradeshow Access Programme

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications the Tradeshow Access Programme received in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; how many it has received in 2007-08; and how many his Department forecasted for the financial year 2007-08. [155860]

Mr. Thomas: The number of participants that received financial support at overseas exhibitions under the Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP), or its predecessor Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad (SESA), between the dates requested are as follows:

		Participants
2005-06	SESA	6,400
2006-07	TAP	4,390
2007-08	TAP	[1]3,279

[1] Applications received as of end August 2007, not all of which will result in grant.

The revised forecast for the financial year 2007-08 was to support 3,400 businesses.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the Tradeshow Access programme budget was used by the end of August 2007; how many applications were made in this period; and how many applications have been refused. [155861]

Mr. Thomas: By the end of August 2007, the Tradeshow Access programme had commitments which we forecast to result in a spend of 83 per cent. of its revised budget of £8.5 million; this was to fund participations in tradeshow activity throughout the financial year from April 2007 until March 2008 (i.e. not just until end August 2007). The scheme had received 3,279 applications during this period, a figure which will be subject to downward revision following companies dropping out of the scheme. My department has not refused any eligible applications under the scheme. In August 2007, we announced some restrictions in numbers for events in the second half of the year intended to manage demand against the resources available.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total budget was of the Tradeshow Access programme for the financial year *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [155862]

Mr. Thomas: The total revised budgets for the Tradeshow Access programme in financial year 2006-07 was £10.5 million and for 2007-08 is £8.5 million.

The Tradeshow Access programme (TAP) was established at the beginning of financial year 2006-07. However, exhibition support prior to this date was covered under a different scheme called Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad (SESA). The comparative budget for 2005-06 was £15.9 million.

Unfair Practices: Competition

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will take steps to ensure that a market-dominant vertically integrated business is required to wholesale its channels on a reasonable basis to other retailers; [157027]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of retail price competition in the pay TV market; and what assessment he has made of the effect of this level on consumers; [157028]

(3) what his policy is on consumer choice in the pay TV market. [157029]

Mr. Thomas: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many city academies *(a)* have been (i) opened and (ii) agreed and *(b)* are proposed in each local education authority. [152923]

Jim Knight: The Government are firmly committed to establishing 400 academies. There are 47 Academies now open; 35 academy projects have funding agreements with the Secretary of State and are in their implementation phase; and there are 65 proposed projects where the Secretary of State has agreed a formal expression of interest with a sponsor for an academy project. Details are given in the following table. In addition to these, the Department is in discussion with local authorities on a large number of potential projects where no formal expression of interest has yet been agreed.

Local authority	*Open*	*In implementation*	*In feasibility*
Barnet	1	—	1
Barnsley	1	—	—
Bexley	1	—	—
Birmingham	—	—	2

Local authority	Open	In implementation	In feasibility
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	1
Bolton	—	—	1
Bradford	1	1	1
Brent	1	—	1
Brighton and Hove	—	—	1
Bristol	1	1	3
Coventry	—	1	1
Croydon	—	1	1
Cumbria	—	—	2
Darlington	—	1	—
Derby	1	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	1
Doncaster	1	—	—
Ealing	1	—	—
Enfield	—	1	—
Essex	—	—	2
Greenwich	1	—	—
Hackney	2	1	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	—	1
Haringey	1	—	—
Herefordshire	—	—	2
Hillingdon	2	—	—
Islington	—	1	1
Kensington and Chelsea	—	1	—
Kent	1	4	3
Lambeth	1	—	1
Lancashire	—	—	1
Leeds	1	—	—
Leicester	—	1	—
Lewisham	2	1	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	3
Liverpool	2	1	—
Luton	—	2	—
Manchester	1	1	6
Merton	2	—	—
Middlesbrough	3	—	—
Milton Keynes	—	1	—
Newcastle	—	1	—
Norfolk	—	—	1
North East Lincolnshire	—	2	1
North Lincolnshire	—	—	1
Northamptonshire	1	2	—
Northumberland	—	1	1
Nottingham, City of	1	—	2
Nottinghamshire	—	—	1
Oxfordshire	—	—	2
Peterborough	—	1	—
Reading	1	—	—
Rochdale	—	1	—
Salford	1	—	1
Sandwell	1	1	3
Sheffield	2	—	—
Slough	—	1	—
Solihull	1	—	—
South Gloucestershire	—	1	—
Southwark	4	1	4
St. Helens	—	—	1
Staffordshire	—	—	1
Stockport	—	1	—
Sunderland	—	—	3
Swindon	—	—	1
Tameside	—	—	1
Telford and Wrekin	1	—	1
Thurrock	1	—	—
Waltham Forest	1	—	—
Walsall	1	—	—
Wandsworth	—	1	—
Westminster	2	1	—
Wiltshire	—	—	1

Building Schools for the Future

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will revise the criteria for granting Building Schools for the Future capital funding to local education authorities to ensure adequate funding for schools which have an intake of students from deprived areas but which are relatively prosperous local authority areas, with particular reference to Stockport. [159419]

Jim Knight: As I set out in my written statement of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 33-38WS, on capital investment in schools, 2008-11, the Government aim to provide a balance of capital programmes that meets national and local needs. The balance of devolved, strategic and targeted programmes ensures that, while we press ahead as fast as possible with our strategic programmes (the Primary Capital Programme and Building Schools for the Future), there is also significant funding available for other areas.

Overall, there is £21.9 billion capital available over three years for schools. The allocations for Stockport for 2008-11 are given in the following tables.

Stockport schools capital allocation 2008/09 to 2010/11

£

		Strategic	Other LA Programmes			
	Total Devolved Formula Capital	Primary Capital Programme	Modernisation	Basic Need	Schools Access	Extended Schools
2008/09	5,375,173	0	3,413,455	821,431	503,749	425,091
2009/10	5,325,173	3,304,296	3,024,275	821,431	503,749	450,394

Stockport schools capital allocation 2008/09 to 2010/11

£

		Strategic		Other LA Programmes		
	Total Devolved Formula Capital	Primary Capital Programme	Modernisation	Basic Need	Schools Access	Extended Schools
2010/11	5,325,173	5,682,296	3,024,275	821,431	503,749	232,788
Total	16,025,518	8,986,592	9,462,004	2,464,292	1,511,247	1,108,272

£

	ICT	Locally Co-ordinated VA Programmes				
	Harnessing Technology	Initial Allocation	Return of Advanced Payment	Nat LCVAP Allocation	Targeted Capital Fund	Total
2008/09	747,434	1,099,680	124,135	975,545	0	12,261,877
2009/10	760,817	1,099,680	124,135	975,545	2,000,000	17,165,679
2010/11	804,444	1,099,680	124,135	975,545	6,000,000	23,369,700
Total	2,312,695	3,299,040	372,405	2,926,636	8,000,000	52,797,256

We are reviewing the operation of waves 7 to 15 of Building Schools for the Future and will be consulting publicly later this year. The key criterion that is emerging for Building Schools for the Future is readiness to deliver, and with the right education vision authorities can put themselves in a good position to accelerate their entry into the programme.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the incidence of sexual abuse of children was in England in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [153938]

Kevin Brennan: The Government collect data on children who became the subject of a child protection plan. In the past this meant they had also had their names placed on a local authority child protection register. Arrangements to maintain a separate register are being phased out by 1 April 2008. Figures on the number and percentage of children who became the subject of a child protection plan as a result of sexual abuse are shown in the table for the years ending 31 March 1990 to 2007.

Up until year ending 31 March 2001 sexual abuse was recorded and could also be identified in cases where concerns about children included a mix of different categories. After that point, local authorities ceased reporting mixed categories separately so figures from year ending 31 March 2002 onwards are only available for registrations and child protection plans that are attributed to sexual abuse as a single category.

Children who became the subject of a child protection plan[1] as a result of sexual abuse during the year ending 31 March 1990 to 2007

	Sexual abuse (alone)		Total sexual abuse[2]	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
2007	2,500	7	n/a	n/a
2006	2,600	8	n/a	n/a
2005	2,700	9	n/a	n/a
2004	2,800	9	n/a	n/a
2003	3,000	10	n/a	n/a
2002	2,800	10	n/a	n/a
2001	3,200	12	4,300	16
2000	3,600	12	5,100	17
1999	4,300	14	5,800	19
1998	4,800	16	6,100	20
1997	4,700	16	6,200	21
1996	4,900	17	6,200	22
1995	6,000	20	7,200	24
1994	6,400	22	7,500	26
1993[4]	5,600	22	6,400	26
1992	3,800	15	4,200	17
1991	3,400	12	3,900	14
1990	3,800	14	4,200	15

n/a = Not available (children ceased to be reported under mixed categories in 2002).

[1] A child may be registered more than once during the year.

[2] Includes children who have suffered sexual abuse alone in conjunction with other categories of abuse. Children may be counted more than once in these mixed categories.

[3] Expressed as a percentage of the total children who became the subject of a child protection plan during the year.

[4] The increase in figures reflects the removal of the category 'grave concern'. Children who were at significant risk of abuse but whose situations did not fit the main categories of neglect, physical injury, sexual and emotional abuse were recorded under 'grave concern'. After the removal of this category, these children were re-classified within the main categories including sexual abuse.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of child care providers have designated outdoor space for children as part of their premises. [158546]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not collected centrally. We recognise the importance of outdoor play and that regular play opportunities are crucial to a child's growth and development. For example, our guidance on the Early Years Foundation Stage makes clear to providers our expectation that, wherever possible, there should be access to an outdoor play area. Providers without direct access to an outdoor play area will be expected to make daily arrangements for outdoor play in an appropriate nearby location.

Class Sizes: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the teacher-pupil ratio was in each London borough in each of the last five years. [159003]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the overall pupil teacher ratio within maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in local authority areas within London, January 2003 to 2007.

Overall[1] Pupil/Teacher ratios by local authority area within London

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
England	17.9	17.7	17.4	17.2	17.1
London	17.2	17.2	16.8	16.7	16.6
Camden	15.9	15.7	16.0	15.6	15.2
City of London	11.9	14.3	14.3	16.2	16.7
Hackney	16.3	16.2	15.5	15.8	14.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	16.4	16.3	15.7	16.0	16.5
Haringey	17.3	17.5	16.5	16.5	16.8
Islington	16.9	16.3	16.1	15.9	15.7
Kensington and Chelsea	15.0	16.0	15.9	15.5	15.5
Lambeth	17.2	16.9	15.8	16.4	15.9
Lewisham	16.7	17.1	17.4	17.7	17.7
Newham	18.1	17.0	17.1	16.5	16.5
Southwark	17.1	17.4	17.4	17.3	16.7
Tower Hamlets	16.0	16.4	16.2	15.8	15.3
Wandsworth	16.7	16.5	16.1	16.3	16.0
Westminster	14.4	14 7	13.4	15.7	15.1
Barking and Dagenham	18.0	17.2	17.8	17.7	17.4
Barnet	16.3	16.7	16.6	16.4	16.8
Bexley	18.7	18.9	19.5	18.5	18.1
Brent	16.8	16.7	15.6	16.1	15.9
Bromley	18.0	18.0	17.4	17.1	16.9
Croydon	16.9	17.0	16.2	17.4	17.7
Ealing	17.9	18.1	17.6	17.8	17.7
Enfield	16.8	16.8	16.4	16.1	16.3
Greenwich	16.5	16.7	16.3	15.7	15.2
Harrow	17.9	17.8	17.5	16.9	16.4
Havering	17.2	17.0	17.1	16.3	16.6
Hillingdon	18.8	17.5	17.0	16.8	16.6
Hounslow	17.3	16.5	16.0	16.0	16 1
Kingston upon Thames	17.7	17.8	17.5	17.5	17.3
Merton	178	19.0	18.1	18,3	18.6
Redbridge	18.0	17.8	18.1	17.2	17.2
Richmond upon Thames	17.8	18.6	18.6	17.9	19.0
Sutton	17.6	18.5	17.9	17.5	17.0
Waltham Forest	18.4	17.5	17.0	16.9	16.8

[1] The overall PTR is based on the total FTE number of pupils on roll in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools and the FTE of all teachers in these schools (including: centrally employed; occasional teachers; those on employment based routes to QTS; others without QTS, those on paid absence and any replacements). Source: School Census (Pupils numbers) and 618G Survey (Teacher numbers)

Curriculum: First Aid

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will include the teaching of first aid within the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [154839]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 October 2007]*: There is already scope in the non-statutory Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) framework for schools to explore safety and emergency procedures as part of the curriculum. At key stages 2 and 3, the framework suggests pupils should be taught

"basic emergency procedures and where to get help and support".

At key stage 4 pupils should be taught to

"develop skills to cope with emergency situations that require basic aid procedures, including resuscitation techniques".

Basic and emergency aid will continue to be part of the non-statutory framework when the new secondary curriculum is introduced from September 2008.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department and its predecessors have bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156738]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils who received the education maintenance allowance gained qualifications in 2006, broken down by type of qualification gained; [158809]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 210W, how many pupils who received the education maintenance allowance while studying for A-levels completed their course of study, broken down by number of A-levels being taken by individual students; [158810]

(3) how many pupils who received the education maintenance allowance gained A-levels in 2006, broken down by *(a)* grade and *(b)* subject; [158811]

(4) how many pupils who received the education maintenance allowance completed their course of study since inception of the allowance, broken down by qualification sought; [158812]

(5) how many pupils who received the education maintenance allowance who were studying for A-Levels in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English language or literature, *(c)* physics, *(d)* chemistry, *(e)* biology, *(f)* a modern language and *(g)* another subject (i) completed their course of study and (ii) gained a qualification since inception of the allowance. [158813]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSG) is responsible for the operation of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme. The LSC do not analyse attainment of EMA recipients by subject area or grade as the costs of extracting the data would

be disproportionate to the benefits. However, an analysis of the impact of EMA on participation and attainment has been commissioned by the LSC. The results of this analysis have been delayed due to data availability issues and are now due to be published in November 2007. A copy of these reports, with a summary of key findings, will be placed in the House Library when they are published.

Education: Citizenship

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what contribution his Department made to the National Foundation for Education Research's Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study; what steps he intends to take in response to its conclusions; and if he will make a statement; [159077]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the statutory citizenship courses in schools. [159078]

Jim Knight: The Department has provided £1.57 million to fund the National Foundation for Education Research's nine year longitudinal study into citizenship education due to be completed in November 2009. The findings from this study and the Ofsted Citizenship report "Towards Consensus? Citizenship in secondary schools" (2006) have helped to shape policy in this area. Both reports found that whilst remaining patchy in some areas, progress has been made in citizenship provision and it is adequate or better in 75 per cent. of schools. The Department has funded a self evaluation tool for schools to enable them to strengthen their citizenship provision.

Both reports point to teacher training continuing to be needed. We are addressing this issue both through providing places for initial teacher training (200 per year) and through the citizenship continuing professional development certificate (1200 teachers over the next two years).

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of teachers teaching citizenship who have not received citizenship-related training; [159079]

(2) what plans he has to recruit and retain teachers who specialise in teaching citizenship. [159082]

Jim Knight: The Department does not monitor all training courses undertaken by teachers, for example those provided by local authorities and commercial providers. We have made available over 200 ITT places per year for the last five years, and the published a CPD handbook for use by citizenship teachers. The Department has also supported a national dissemination effort to provide training on use of the handbook. Additionally, we are funding 1,200 citizenship continuing professional development (CPD) places in higher education institutions over 2006-07 and 2007-08 to enable citizenship teachers to broaden and deepen their subject knowledge. The CPD course will be evaluated by Ofsted. We continue to support the Association of Citizenship Teachers and work with a range of organisations to provide resources and support for teachers.

Education: Languages

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has given to local education authorities on teaching foreign languages; and if he will make a statement. [158839]

Jim Knight: We have not issued formal guidance to local authorities on teaching languages but we have produced a range of guidance and support materials for schools which are disseminated to local authority language advisers through our networks—including the key stage 2 framework for languages and new schemes of work for primary schools. We have allocated £27.5 million funding to local authorities to support the delivery of primary languages in 2007-08 and the National Director for Languages wrote to each local authority with suggested models for using this funding.

The Secondary National Strategy and CILT, the National Centre for Languages have worked with local authorities to create 355 networks of secondary schools which are building on the key stage 3 framework guidance to raise achievement and improve teaching and learning at KS3.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each London constituency offer tuition in *(a)* Cantonese and *(b)* Mandarin; and whether he has any plans to put Cantonese and Mandarin on the National Curriculum. [158840]

Jim Knight: The information requested on numbers of schools offering Mandarin and Cantonese is not available broken down by constituency. However, research conducted earlier this year for the Department by CILT, the National Centre for Languages showed that around 7-8 per cent. of all maintained secondary schools in England were providing some Mandarin teaching.

The National Curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages does not prescribe which languages schools should offer, However, from September 2008, the requirement that pupils at Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14) must first study a working language of the European Union will be lifted so that schools will be able to teach any major European or world language. Examples given in the new programme of study include Mandarin, although the choice of language is for schools to determine.

The national languages strategy set out an entitlement for all Key Stage 2 (7-11 year old) pupils to learn a language in class time by 2010. Schools can choose which languages they teach; including Mandarin and Cantonese. Research carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) into language teaching in primary schools found that 1 per cent. of responding schools in London were teaching Chinese.

Examinations: Children

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the number of educational tests and examinations that children and young people are required to sit; and if he will make a statement. [158838]

Jim Knight: The Department receives representations from stakeholders, in particular pupils and parents, about the numbers of tests and examinations which pupils are required to take. There are statutory assessments of each pupil's progress and attainment at the end of key stages 1, 2 and 3, In key stage 1, pupils are set at least one task in each of reading, writing and mathematics. Tasks can be taken at any time and enable teachers to be secure in their judgment of which level the child has reached. Assessment at key stages 2 and 3 involves tests in English, mathematics and science, and teacher assessments. Although there are no statutory requirements for assessment at the end of key stage 4, approximately 96 per cent. of 15-year-olds are entered for one or more full GCSE courses each year. The tests and examinations taken at the end of each key stage do not amount to an excessive burden on pupils or schools. For example, the key stage 2 tests amount to less than six hours, accounting for around 0.15 per cent. of available teaching time in the key stage, and the key stage 3 tests amount to less than eight hours, accounting for less than 0.2 per cent. of available teaching time in the key stage.

These tests and examinations provide objective and reliable measures of the standards secured by pupils at crucial stages in their development, and equip us with the best data possible to support our education system. In addition to assessment at the end of each key stage, schools monitor pupils' performance during each key stage and it is for each school to decide whether to use tests as part of their monitoring arrangements.

Foster Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of local authority collection of information about informal fostering of children. [157944]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: The Department has not assessed the effectiveness of the collection by local authorities of information about private fostering since this collection was introduced for the year ending 31 March 2005.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Citizenship

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will introduce a full GCSE qualification in citizenship. [159075]

Jim Knight: New subject criteria for GCSE Citizenship Studies are being developed and will shortly be published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. The new criteria will reflect the revised secondary curriculum and will enable full course GCSEs to be developed by awarding bodies for first teaching in 2009. There is a short-course GCSE in Citizenship Studies which is the fastest growing GCSE. There were 73,142 entries for the GCSE in 2007—an increase of nearly 19,000 on 2006 entries.

General Certificate of Secondary Education A Level: Mathematics

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils from *(a)* independent, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* grammar schools received a grade A in two of Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [148274]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the most improved secondary school was in terms of the GCSE five A*-C score measure between 1999 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [159013]

Jim Knight: Data for 2007 are not yet available, 2006 data have been used instead. For maintained schools, Phoenix High School, in Hammersmith and Fulham had the largest increase in the percentage getting 5 A*-C at GCSE between 1999 and 2006. The number of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving 5 + A*-C at GCSE increased from 4 per cent. to 77 per cent. Only schools with a cohort size of 10 or more in both years were included in the analysis.

[1] Aged 15 on the 31 August

Politics: Curriculum

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to support *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Parliament's Education Service and *(c)* local authorities in the contributions that they make to the teaching in schools of the political literacy strand of the citizenship curriculum. [159076]

Jim Knight: The Department has funded a number of initiatives to promote political literacy through citizenship and to support MPs that wish to be more involved in schools. Working with the Hansard Society and the parliamentary education unit, we have supported the development of the MPs in Schools pack, which prepares pupils for a visit from their local MP. The Hansard Society, with DCSF backing, has also developed the "Headsup" website, an online forum that assists teachers in delivering political literacy, and also MPs who can use it to consult with their younger constituents; the "Big Ben" and "All That! teaching resource, which gives teachers and pupils an inside view of Westminster through interviews with MPs and Peers as well as archived footage from Parliament; and "Y Vote Mock Elections", which aim to actively engage students with the electoral process. DCSF has also funded a programme of MP mentoring, where MPs work directly with trainee citizenship teachers to help them with their knowledge of Parliament so that they can teach the political literacy element of citizenship with confidence. In addition, DCSF set up and funded the Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT) to work with teachers and local authorities to provide training and help to spread good practice.

Pupil Exclusions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which are the 200 schools with the highest number of permanent and temporary exclusions over the last 10 years. [156633]

Kevin Brennan: A list of the 200 schools with the highest number of permanent exclusions for the years 1997/98, 2000/01, 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 has been placed in the Library.

Only three years of data relating to fixed period exclusions are currently available. The first year for which information on fixed period exclusions is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Due to underlying changes in the data collection, information on fixed period exclusions is not available for maintained primary and special schools for 2005/06. A list of the 200 schools with the highest numbers of fixed period exclusions in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 has also been placed in the Library,

The lists of schools which have been provided here do not necessarily relate to schools with the highest rates of exclusions.

Pupils: Citizenship

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to enable schools to assist students to get involved in their communities, particularly through volunteering, as part of the citizenship curriculum. [159074]

Jim Knight: The revised Citizenship curriculum at Key stages 3 and 4 provides that pupils should have opportunities to

"participate in different forms of individual and collective action, including decision-making and campaigning and participate in both school-based and community-based citizenship activities".

Additionally, Over the next three years, v the independent charity launched to implement the recommendations of the Russell Commission, will be investing over £70 million in a new framework for youth action and engagement through its recently announced National Youth Volunteering Programme (NYVP). This programme will not only fund new opportunities, but it will also create a v presence in every local authority area in England, working with local organisations to deliver high quality volunteering placements. It will also establish a framework for the recognition and accreditation of youth volunteering opportunities, so that young people who give up their time for the benefit of their communities will have their achievements acknowledged and celebrated.

Pupils: Mathematics

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to allow pupils who have not mastered basic numeracy skills *(a)* to have extra tuition and *(b)* not to be required to take GCSE in mathematics. [159041]

Jim Knight: The Department is planning two separate, but related one-to-one tuition programmes, which are designed to raise standards in mathematics:

one-to-one tuition to help 300,000 children who have fallen behind in mathematics by 2010-11. We are currently planning how this should be delivered and will use lessons learned from the tuition element of the Making Good Progress pilot, and from other existing individual intervention programmes, to inform this.

'Every Child Counts' (ECC), a more intensive initiative specifically designed for intervention in mathematics during Key Stage 1, which will be a counterpart to 'Every Child a Reader' (ECAR).

Under the Making Good Progress pilot we are offering up to 10 hours of one to one tuition in mathematics for pupils who are behind, or at risk of falling behind, national expectations. Tuition will be delivered outside school hours by fully qualified teachers working in partnership with the class teacher.

ECC, set to start in 2010, will be aimed at children whose attainment as six-year-olds shows they are failing to make expected progress for their age. In Year 2, they will get intensive support in half hour sessions each day from teachers, mostly provided one-to-one, but also through group work.

We are investing £144 million over the next three years into rolling out nationally ECAR and ECC and by 2011 30,000 seven-year-olds who need help with mathematics will benefit from the programme each year. We are working with the charitable KPMG Foundation on this programme.

Mathematics is a compulsory subject at Key Stage 4. It is not compulsory for students to be entered for the GCSE, though achievement in GCSE mathematics is an important gateway to opportunities for further study and employment and we therefore expect the vast majority of young people to be entered for it. As part of our 14-19 reform programme we have developed new functional skills standards at entry level and levels 1 and 2 in mathematics which will be incorporated into all qualification routes (GCSE, Diplomas and Apprenticeships) and will also form the basis of freestanding qualifications. The freestanding qualifications will provide opportunities for achievement and progression in mathematics for those young people for whom a GCSE might not be the most appropriate option at the end of Key Stage 4.

Pupils: Truancy

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils took unauthorised absences at least once in each of the last five school years; [154280]

(2) how much the Government have spent on anti-truancy measures since 1997. [154281]

Kevin Brennan: The pupil numbers requested are shown in the following table.

	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	*Unauthorised absence number of pupils with at least one session missed*
2002	7,188,176	1,169,252
2003	7,118,701	1,231,927
2004	7,166,992	1,306,145
2005	7,077,373	1,428.590
2006	7,026,910	1,431,482

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes ail unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and other unauthorised absence.

On the cost of attendance measures, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 23 July 2007, *Official Report* column 894W, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

School Milk

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have taken up the EU school milk subsidy scheme in each constituency; [158085]

(2) how many school children are eligible for the EU school milk subsidy scheme. [158086]

Kevin Brennan: This Department does not collect the information requested. Local authorities are not obliged to provide milk, but where they do so they must provide it free of charge to pupils entitled to receive a free school lunch. They are also free to make use of the EU school milk subsidy scheme, which reduces the cost of whole milk and semi-skimmed milk purchased.

The Rural Payments Agency, a DEFRA executive agency, is responsible for the administration of the EU subsidy scheme in Britain. It provides advice online, in response to individual requests and via its helpline to those schools and local authorities which choose to participate in the scheme, including how to apply for the payment of subsidy.

Schools: Admissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of secondary school pupils in each London borough secured a place at their parents' *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third choice of secondary school in each academic year since 1997. [158820]

Jim Knight: We do not currently hold these data However, my officials are currently consulting on draft regulations which will enable us to have this information in future. The consultation document is available on the DCSF website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consulationId=1506

Schools: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to require all major new-build for schools to meet a minimum BREEAM rating of excellent in accordance with the Common Minimum Standards; and if he will make a statement. [153858]

Jim Knight: The Department currently has no plans to require new-build schools to meet a minimum BREEAM rating of excellent. We have adapted the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) for schools and since 2005 it has been our requirement that major school building projects achieve a minimum BREEAM rating of 'very good'. This is a challenging but achievable target.

The Department is funding demonstration schemes that will achieve a BREEAM schools rating of 'excellent' and we have commissioned a study to investigate the potential implications of raising the target to 'excellent'. The outcomes of these initiatives will inform future policy.

The Department has also allocated £110 million over the next three years to test the aim of reducing carbon emissions by 60 per cent. in new schools built in Building Schools for the Future and the Academies programme. Around 200 schools will benefit from the additional investment.

Schools: Finance

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will rescind his policy requiring all schools to repay five per cent of any surplus carried forward from the financial year 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [159030]

Jim Knight: The Government believe it right to take action to reduce the total of schools' revenue balances which more than doubled from £740 million to nearly £1.6 billion between 1999-2000 and 2005-06. This is taxpayers' money voted by Parliament for the education of the pupils in schools in the year in question and it should not be steadily accumulating in schools' bank accounts.

The Department is consulting on the detailed implementation of the proposal to require local authorities to redistribute 5 per cent. of all surplus revenue balances locally, as part of consultation on the draft school finance regulations for 2008. Consultation closes on 26 October and I will announce our final decisions after taking careful account of the responses received.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools offer at least *(a)* two hours and *(b)* five hours of supervised sport for pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 each week. [158545]

Kevin Brennan: Information is not collected in the format requested. The 2006/07 School Sport Survey collected data from all maintained schools in England about the percentage of pupils who take part in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport each week. The results of the survey are being published today. They show that 92 per cent. of pupils in year 7 are taking part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week. For year 8 pupils, the figure is 91 per cent., and for year 9 pupils, the figure is 86 per cent.

Data on take-up of five hours of sport are not collected centrally.

Copies of the results of the survey are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families why it was decided not to make reference to *(a)* knowledge and *(b)* culture in the aims of the review of the secondary curriculum as set out in the draft summary of findings document. [150394]

Jim Knight: In the draft summary of the findings document, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority stated that one of the aims of the secondary review was to help schools refresh and renew their curriculum by

"embedding the curriculum aims to help pupils become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens".

The curriculum aims are described in more detail within the new secondary curriculum, where explicit references are made to knowledge and culture. For example, included in the definition of 'Successful Learners' are our expectations that successful learners should:

have the essential learning skills of literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology;

have inquiring minds and think for themselves to process information, reason, question and evaluate;

know about big ideas and events that shape our world.

All of these outcomes rely on knowledge acquisition.

Under the heading of 'Confident Individuals', the curriculum aims state that confident pupils will be

"open to the excitement and inspiration offered by the natural world and human achievements".

This is intended to include cultural achievements.

More specifically, under the heading of 'Responsible Citizens', the aims state that responsible citizens should

"understand their own and others' cultures and traditions, within the context of British heritage".

Stockwell Park School: Swimming Pools

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reason the Building Schools for the Future proposal for the new Stockwell Park School in Lambeth does not include a replacement for the existing swimming pool; and if he will make a statement. [158795]

Jim Knight: BSF funding is allocated formulaically, based on pupil numbers and DCSF area guidelines for secondary schools ('BB98'). Within BB98 swimming pools are not considered to be part of the core school facilities which DCSF fund.

It is for each local authority to decide how to make the best use of its overall BSF funding allocation across the schools in a particular project and the scope of works at each school. An authority can choose to use some of its BSF allocation to refurbish an existing pool where it considers this to be the best use of the available funding. There is also the option of exploring other sources of funding (e.g. DCMS/Sport England) to supplement that from BSF.

Lambeth council took the view that using funding to replace the pool at Stockwell Park would not represent good value for money. Other, better, facilities are available locally and swimming pools require significant investment, not just of capital funding but also of revenue to support the considerable ongoing running costs—costs which were unlikely to be recouped in this case through community use.

Teachers: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants work in schools in (i) Chorley and (ii) Lancashire; and what the equivalent figures were in 1997. [158757]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in Chorley constituency and Lancashire local authority in January 1997 and 2007.

Full-time equivalent teachers arid teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in Chorley constituency and Lancashire local authority, January 1997 and 2007

	1997		2007	
	Teachers[1]	Teaching assistants[2]	Teachers[1]	Teaching assistants[2]
Chorley	810	100	890	320
Lancashire[3]	n/a	n/a	9,840	4,070

n/a = not available

[1] Qualified and unqualified teachers.

[2] Teaching assistants include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.

[3] Lancashire local authority was reorganised in 1999 and therefore 1997 figures are not comparable with 2007.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census and the Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618g (Lancashire LA teacher numbers)

Written Questions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will answer question 148140, on the Building Schools for the Future programme, tabled on 3 July by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. [156239]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 866W.

Youth Citizenship Forum

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects the Youth Citizenship Forum to meet; [158954]

(2) whether his Department will have lead responsibility for the Youth Citizenship Forum. [158955]

Kevin Brennan: I assume the hon. Member's question refers to the Youth Citizenship Commission. The Commission will be launched this autumn. It will report to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, and the Secretary of State for Justice. The Commission will be supported by a small Secretariat, based at the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Co-ordination

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the case for appointing an International Coordinator for Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [157384]

David Miliband: The UK was instrumental in the adoption of the Afghanistan Compact, which recognises the central co-ordinating role exercised by the UN. We have long supported the need for the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to provide effective co-ordination for the international community's effort in Afghanistan and continue to do so.

Alexander Litvinenko

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in Government efforts to seek the extradition from Russia of Mr Andrei Lugovoy in connection with the murder of Mr Alexander Litvinenko. [157529]

David Miliband: Since I made my statement to the House on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-22 on a package of measures in response to Russia's failure to extradite Andrei Lugovoy, I have raised the matter on a number of occasions both with my Russian counterpart and with other partners. We continue to demand the Russian authorities co-operate with the Crown Prosecution Service's request for the extradition of Mr. Lugovoy so that he can stand trial in the UK.

Andrei Lugovoy: Extradition

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place between his Department and the Russian Government on the extradition of Andrei Lugovoy; what recent progress has occurred on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [158028]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) today (UIN 157529).

Arab League

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to attend the next meeting of the Arab League. [159167]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary currently has no plans to attend the next meeting of the Arab League.

BBC External Services: Finance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the planned *(a)* near cash departmental expenditure limit, *(b)* non-cash departmental expenditure limit and *(c)* capital departmental expenditure limit is for the (i) BBC World Service and (ii) British Council for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [159024]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The British Council and BBC World Service (BBCWS) are not given separate departmental expenditure limits but are included in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) limits as ring-fenced amounts.

The BBCWS grant-in-aid limit will be £234,043 million, £241,043 million and £240,043 million per annum between financial years (FYs) 2008-09 and 2010-11 (not including capital). It does not have a non-cash departmental limit as it is treated as public corporation. Its capital grant for the period in question will be £31 million per annum.

The British Council's grant-in-aid limit will be £188,003 million, £193,003 million and £189,003 million per annum between FYs 2008-09 and 2010-11 (not including capital). It does not have a non-cash departmental limit as it is treated as public corporation. Its capital grant for the period in question will be £7.8 million per annum for the period in question.

Burma: Arms Trade

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the EU arms embargo on the *(a)* sale and *(b)* re-sale of military equipment and technology from EU member states to the Burmese regime. [159174]

Dr. Howells: The EU annual report for 2006 listed only three military related sales to Burma from the EU. Those three items were from the UK. However, all these items were deemed to fall outside the EU Ban and with a full explanation given in the UK strategic export controls annual report of 2006. The items were pharmaceutical equipment, an armoured four-wheel drive vehicle for our embassy in Rangoon and hydrophones.

The EU Common Position includes a ban on all arms sales to Burma, directly or indirectly. Any act to breach this ban knowingly would be illegal. However, if we subsequently learn that military products or components are re-exported to Burma, we would make representations to the relevant foreign government.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, in his statement issued on 15 October, said that we would review the implementation of the embargo with our partners to address any risk that arms or their components might be diverted or re-exported to Burma.

Burma: Politics and Government

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met his Indian and Chinese counterparts to discuss the situation in Burma. [158438]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have had intensive contact about Burma recently with international partners, including China and India. Most recently my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Burma with the Indian Minister for External Affairs on 3 October and the Chinese Foreign Minister on 29 September. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised the situation in Burma with Prime Minister Singh on 11 October.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether a further date has been set by the UN Security Council to discuss the situation in Burma following its discussions on 5 October 2007; and if he will make a statement; [159172]

(2) pursuant to his statement of 15 October 2007, what further measures he expects the UN Security Council to consider taking against Burma if it does not take clear steps towards the return of democracy. [159173]

Dr. Howells: The UN Security Council remains focused on the situation in Burma. The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari has returned to the region and will return to Burma shortly. We would expect the Security Council to review progress in the light of Professor Gambari's further visit.

On 15 October my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement welcoming the UN Security Council's statement on Burma and making clear that the Burmese regime must end the violence, release political detainees and take clear steps towards the return of democracy. He also said that the Security Council should meet again to review progress made in Burma. If progress is insufficient, the council will need to consider further measures. We shall discuss possible further measures with our Security Council partners.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships were awarded in each year since 1997, broken down by country of origin of recipients. [157557]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Details for the eight academic years from 1998/99 to 2005/06 are given in the Chevening Programme Annual Report for each year. The reports are available at:

http://www.chevening.com/about/reports/.

They will also be placed in the Library of the House. There was no Annual Report for 1997/98, but the details for that year are provided in the following table below. For information on academic year 2006/07 I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Chelmsford West (Mr. Burns) on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 996-999W.

Country	*1997-98 scholars*
Albania	4
Algeria	12
Angola	3
Antigua	1
Argentina	24
Armenia	4
Australia	20
Austria	2
Azerbaijan	5
Bahamas	5
Bahrain	11
Bangladesh	5
Barbados	6
Belarus	7
Belgium	8
Belize	3
Bolivia	3
Bosnia	7
Botswana	2
Brazil	64
Bulgaria	8
Burma	3
Cambodia	3
Cameroon	3
Canada	10
Cayman Islands	2
Chile	8
China	86
China (Hong Kong)	50
Colombia	15
Costa Rica	8
Cote D'Ivoire	3
Croatia	6
Cuba	4
Cyprus	21
Czech Republic	11
Denmark	12
Dominican Republic	5
Ecuador	4
Egypt	63
El Salvador	3
Eritrea	2
Estonia	6
Ethiopia	6
Fiji	5
Finland	4
France	20
Gambia	1
Georgia	6
Germany	16
Ghana	10
Greece	6
Guatemala	3
Guyana	4
Haiti	2
Honduras	1
Hungary	14
Iceland	9
India	89
Indonesia	62
Ireland	11
Israel	34
Italy	13
Jamaica	4
Japan	6

Country	1997-98 scholars
Jordan	28
Kazakhstan	8
Kenya	11
Korean Republic	63
Kuwait	5
Latvia	6
Lebanon	6
Lesotho	4
Lithuania	8
Luxembourg	10
Macedonia	5
Madagascar	3
Malawi	7
Malaysia	82
Maldives Islands	1
Malta	9
Mauritania	1
Mauritius	4
Mexico	79
Mongolia	5
Morocco	10
Mozambique	4
Namibia	1
Nepal	6
Netherlands	13
New Zealand	9
Nicaragua	1
Nigeria	44
Norway	13
Oman	7
Pakistan	59
Palestine	18
Papua New Guinea	4
Paraguay	2
Peru	11
Philippines	19
Poland	15
Portugal	12
Romania	12
Russia	22
Rwanda	3
Saudi Arabia	12
Senegal	4
Seychelles	3
Siena Leone	2
Singapore	10
Slovakia	10
Slovenia	7
Solomon Islands	1
South Africa	26
Sri Lanka	2
St. Vincent and Grenadines	1
Sudan	14
Swaziland	2
Sweden	7
Switzerland	7
Syria	15
Taiwan	17
Tanzania	8
Thailand	29
Tonga	2
Trinidad and Tobago	3
Tunisia	6
Turkey	129
Turks and Caicos Islands	1
Tuvalu	1
Uganda	5
Ukraine	13
United Arab Emirates	2
Uruguay	4
Uzbekistan	10
Venezuela	20
Vietnam	14
Yemen	12
Yugoslavia	6
Zambia	6
Zimbabwe	13
Total	1,912

Cyprus

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the full reopening of the town of Famagusta; and if he will make a statement. [157332]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Any agreement on the future of the closed town of Varosha and the ongoing division of the island is only likely to be resolved through a comprehensive settlement acceptable to both sides and brokered by the UN. We continue to urge both sides to show the political will and flexibility to bridge the gap between words and deeds, and to engage constructively with the UN's efforts to broker a comprehensive and durable settlement.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Mayor of Famagusta Mr. Alexis Galanos on his campaign to see the full reopening of the town of Famagusta; and if he will make a statement. [157334]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have met with the Mayor of Famagusta in both Cyprus and the UK and received details of his campaign. My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), in her role as Special Representative to Cyprus, also met Alexis Galanos during her recent visit to Cyprus, In their discussions, they emphasised the importance of a UN process leading to a comprehensive and durable settlement of benefit to all Cypriots.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157001]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) gave to him on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157901]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As at the end of August 2007, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had responsibility for 220 websites under five main Uniform Resource Locators; www.fco.gov.uk, www.britishembassy.gov.uk: www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk; www.ukvisas.gov.uk; www.i-UK.com. At 1 January 2005 the department operated 202 websites, including foreign language versions. The estimated annual cost over the last five years to run these websites is £700,000.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157902]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's most popular website since January 2007 has been www.fco.gov.uk, which received 7,060,766 visitors. The least popular website has been Vanuatu's Post website, with 764 visitors.

Departments: Ministers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total estimated annual cost is of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space, *(d)* administrative support and *(e)* special advisers for the Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN. [154625]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The estimated annual cost of the office space for my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, is £50,967.10, similar to that incurred in the previous year. This figure includes management fees, business rates, tax and the cost of utilities. Based on average earnings, the estimated cost of administrative support, which is the combined salaries of five staff, is £192,581. Administrative costs for the previous year are estimated at £186,322.

Details of ministerial salaries are available in the Library of the House and at: http://wwwcivil service.gov.uk/other/parliamentary/pay/ministerial/ index.asp. The Minister does not have a special adviser.

Like all Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers, Lord Malloch-Brown will have travel and other expenses associated with performing his ministerial duties. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158892]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not maintain central records of total annual expenditure on hospitality across the FCO and UK missions overseas. To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Government Hospitality, Protocol Directorate, spent approximately £588,000 in total in the year October 2006 to 30 September 2007. Government Hospitality funds and arranges formal ministerial hospitality for all Government Departments. Although the FCO is the largest single user of the service (and budget) it accounts for around 30 per cent. of the total annual spend.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash administration cost limit for his Department is for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [159025]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is set out at table B15 of Meeting the aspirations of the British people: 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review (Cm 7227), copies of which are in the Library of the House. Separate near- and non-cash limits for administration budgets are not specified as HM Treasury control limits.

Diplomatic Service: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in UK embassies have been seconded from outside Government; from which company or outside body each has been seconded; and to which embassy each secondment has taken place. [157774]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have no staff working in Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) positions overseas who have been seconded from outside Government. Various categories of locally recruited non-Government personnel work at FCO premises overseas in support functions, under both contractual and non-contractual arrangements. We do not hold central records for them and could not compile data about them without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ethiopia: Human Rights

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2005W, whether the Government has received the UN assessment team's appraisal of the situation in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [158280]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UN has completed its assessment of the situation in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia and passed a copy of its report to the Ethiopian government. It is now publicly available.

We welcome the Ethiopian government's acceptance of the UN assessment team's appraisal and look forward to co-operation between the Ethiopian government and the UN to implement its findings. We expect this to lead to an improvement in the humanitarian and security situation in the region.

Ethiopia: Political Prisoners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made in the case of the Ethiopian anti-poverty campaigners Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demissie, who are currently in gaol. [157534]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have raised the case of Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demissie with the Ethiopian Government on numerous occasions. Most recently my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised it with the Ethiopian ambassador to London on 23 August and again with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York on 27 September.

On 9 October, the presiding judge adjourned the trial until 22 November to consider both sides' concluding remarks. We will continue to press the Ethiopian authorities for a quick and transparent trial process.

European Constitution

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will bring forward proposals for a written constitution for Europe; [158677]

(2) what recent representations he has received on a draft European constitution; and if he will make a statement. [158678]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The draft treaty establishing a constitution for Europe is now defunct. The mandate for a reform treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned."

EU External Relations: African Union

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the officials who will attend the EU-AU summit in Lisbon on behalf of the United Kingdom. [157387]

David Miliband: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said that neither he nor any senior Government Minister will attend the EU—Africa summit in Lisbon if President Mugabe attends. Our focus now is on working for solutions that deliver a successful summit without President Mugabe attending. No invitations to the summit have yet been issued and consequently no final decision has been made as to who will or will not attend for the UK.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes there have been between the latest draft of the EU reform treaty and the previous draft. [157538]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: The latest draft of the reform treaty includes technical amendments as a result of discussions in the intergovernmental conference legal working group, including technical points on the UK's joint home affairs protocol. Following my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's oral evidence session with the Foreign Affairs Committee on 10 October, he agreed to write to the Committee and place in the Library of the House a document setting out how the Government's red lines are reflected in the latest draft of the reform treaty.

Iraq: Resettlement

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by the Government to inform Iraqi staff *(a)* working for and *(b)* who formerly worked for the Government that they are eligible for assistance from the UK. [158275]

David Miliband: We have held meetings with our locally-engaged staff in Iraq to inform them of the written ministerial statement I made on 9 October, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, and to hear their views. We will inform serving Iraqi staff of the full details of the scheme once these are announced. We plan a wide range of measures to ensure that former staff who meet the eligibility criteria have the best possible chance of hearing about the scheme.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget is for ex gratia assistance to *(a)* Iraqi staff working for the Government and *(b)* Iraqi staff who formerly worked for the Government; and if he will make a statement. [158276]

David Miliband: The total cost of the assistance scheme will vary according to take-up and the forms of assistance chosen by individuals.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of progress in implementing the UN Security Council resolution on the future of Kosovo; and if he will make a statement; [158023]

(2) what assessment he has made of the progress of the Contact Group in resolving the future of Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [158025]

Mr. Jim Murphy: UN Security Council Resolution 1244 provides a framework for a political process to decide Kosovo's future status. That process is ongoing. The UN Special Envoy for Kosovo submitted a comprehensive proposal for a status settlement on 26 March 2007. This was accepted by Pristina, but

rejected by Belgrade. As a further effort to achieve a negotiated settlement, the Contact Group established a Troika whose task is to facilitate a period of further discussion between the parties. The Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary-General by 10 December.

Contact Group Ministers met in New York on 27 September. They reiterated that an early resolution of Kosovo's status is crucial to the stability and security of the Western Balkans. They endorsed fully the UN Secretary-General's assessment that the status quo is not sustainable. They expressed full support for the Troika process.

Mercenaries

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, on private military security companies, which private military security companies have been employed by the Government in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; what monitoring of those companies and their actions is carried out by the Government; under what terms the Government can terminate a contract; how many times private military security companies employed by the Government in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan were involved in weapons fire which has resulted in civilian casualties in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [157810]

David Miliband: The following private security companies have been contracted to provide security services in Iraq and Afghanistan during this period:

Iraq—Armorgroup, Control Risks and Garda World (former Kroll Security Group);

Afghanistan—Armorgroup and Edinburgh International.

All of these contracts are subject to continuous performance monitoring and contract management by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other Government Departments concerned, both in country on-the-ground and from the UK, in respect of all aspects of the delivery and operation of these contracts.

In line with normal practice the Government can terminate these contracts, in whole or part, in a situation where the company is in default e.g. if it breaches any obligation under the contract, or in the event of the company becoming insolvent or of a change of control over the company, or for the Government's convenience in line with a pre-defined period of notice.

The companies contracted by the Government have never been involved in weapons fire which has resulted in civilian casualties in either Iraq or Afghanistan, from 2003 to the present.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's objectives for the forthcoming international Conference on the middle east peace process to be held by the United States of America. [158271]

David Miliband: The upcoming US-hosted international meeting will be key to moving the peace process forward. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 24:

"we would like to see an agreement that puts the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008, leading to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security."

Nigeria: Elections

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records the Government holds on the role of UK Government agencies in post-independence elections in Nigeria; and if he will make a statement. [158448]

Mr. Jim Murphy: From the search tools available to us we understand that all Foreign and Commonwealth Office (or its preceding departments) information selected for permanent preservation relating to the post-independence elections held in Nigeria in December 1964 and March 1965, and any UK Government Agency role in them, are held in The National Archives. The National Archives Catalogue showed the following documents as relevant: D035/10462, C0657 and C0592.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2212-3W, on Palestinians: politics and government, what decisions have been made on the future UK contribution to strengthening the Palestinian security forces; and if he will make a statement. [157532]

David Miliband: As my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East said previously, we are committed to security sector reform and will continue to work with President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad to strengthen the Palestinian security forces. We welcome the steps that the Palestinian Authority (PA) has taken to improve security and stand ready to help where we can.

We are working closely with the PA and the US security coordinator, General Dayton. We continue to provide a police adviser, training adviser and military liaison officer to his team. We fully support the EU civil police training mission and welcome its proposed expansion. We are currently reviewing our support to the security sector and are working with the PA and international partners to identify opportunities. We will keep the House informed.

Poland: Homosexuality

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* European Union and *(b)* Council of Europe counterparts on Poland's adherence to human rights and equality obligations, with particular reference to the position of homosexuals; what the outcome was of these discussions; and if he will make a statement. [154184]

David Miliband: I have not discussed this issue with EU and Council of Europe counterparts.

Despite statements made by the former Education Minister, Roman Giertych, on gay rights, the current government has not passed any laws or introduced any policies that discriminate against homosexuals. For the last two years, gay rights marches have taken place in Warsaw without incident.

The EU has a number of institutions and mechanisms designed to protect citizens' human rights. Poland is a member of the EU and the Council of Europe, and as a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights is obliged to adhere to its provisions.

The UK also plays a full role in the Council of Europe in helping to ensure uniformity of the application and implementation of Human Rights throughout Europe including EU member states.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the situation in *(a)* Darfur and *(b)* Kordofan. [157368]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Sudan remains a top international priority for the UK. The UN Security Council unanimously agreed a UK sponsored resolution authorising a hybrid UN and African Union (AU) peacekeeping force. The UN and AU have also set a date for political talks for Darfur in Libya at the end of this month.

Despite this, the situation in Darfur remains precarious. In recent days, there has been more violence against the people of Darfur and against the AU peacekeepers sent there to protect them. Humanitarian access is shrinking.

We are pressing the UN and AU to deploy the hybrid force fully, rapidly and effectively. We have called on all parties to the conflict to cease hostilities in Darfur, not to escalate regional tensions by mounting attacks in Kordofan or any other region outside Darfur, and attend political talks starting later this month.

We have a responsibility to show the people of Darfur the benefits of peace. We have made clear that when political and security conditions are right, we will work with others in the international community to ensure there is a viable recovery programme for Darfur that enables people to rebuild their lives.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to assist in bringing peace to Abyei in Sudan. [157371]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government are working with the UN on an early recovery strategy for conflict areas between North and South Sudan such as Abyei. This would be implemented once both sides agree the demarcation of Abyei.

However, the National Congress Party and Sudan People's Liberation Movement have failed to agree a solution for Abyei.

We have raised Abyei in our contacts with the Government of Sudan and through our membership of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation oversight body—the Assessment and Evaluation Commission.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with contributing nations to the African Union Force to persuade them not to withdraw troops from the African Union Mission in Sudan force in Darfur. [157370]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Although many countries contributing troops to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), were justifiably concerned by the recent attacks against AMIS troops in Darfur, none have publicly stated they will withdraw troops from Darfur in response. We are in regular contact with African and other potential troop contributors to the African Union/United Nations hybrid peacekeeping force for Darfur, to facilitate rapid and effective deployment of the force.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made to the Government of Sudan on implementing the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement with the full deployment of Eastern Front troops; and what further steps have been taken to ensure the integration and rehabilitation of the troops. [158153]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We regularly raise the implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement with Government of Sudan officials in Khartoum.

UN Development Programme has completed the registration of troops for 'Demobilisation, Disarmament and Re-integration' and is now drawing up an economic mapping and reintegration strategy, after which it will seek funding from donors.

Tibet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 534W, on Tibet, what estimate he has made of the proportion of applications from journalists for permission to enter Tibet which have been successful. [159320]

Dr. Howells: We are not aware of any unsuccessful applications from foreign correspondents seeking permission to enter Tibet. However, a small number of journalists have reported harassment or attempts to restrict reporting by security officials once in Tibet. We continue to urge the Chinese Government to ensure the new regulations for foreign correspondents are fully implemented across the whole of China, including in Tibet.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to prepare a long-term economic recovery package for Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [157386]

David Miliband: The current economic crisis is the direct result of poor economic policies implemented by the government of Zimbabwe. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said that Britain is ready to contribute its share to supporting recovery in Zimbabwe. We are working with the international donor community and with multinational institutions to promote a co-ordinated approach. This will include measures to stabilise the economy and move towards sustainable recovery, reduce Zimbabwe's debt, help skilled people return, renovate schools and hospitals and support fair land reform. But Zimbabwe would need to implement fundamental policy and administrative reforms before the UK and the international community could credibly provide such assistance.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in Zimbabwe and the risks to civilians who oppose the Zimbabwe Government; and if he will make a statement. [158045]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The political situation in Zimbabwe is appalling and the economic situation dire. President Mugabe rules by force and fear. We, along with EU partners, regularly raise our concerns with the government about their catastrophic economic policies and systematic human rights' violations, including torture and arbitrary arrest; and the brutal consequences for those who oppose President Mugabe's regime. We will continue to offer support to human rights defenders, through programme funding and by attending trials and visiting victims of abuse in hospital. We will also continue to work with our international partners to encourage policy change in Zimbabwe and to provide humanitarian aid to keep vulnerable Zimbabweans alive.

Zimbabwe: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the Government's policy that Zimbabwean Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono be put on the EU list of those subject to an EU travel ban and assets freeze. [157522]

David Miliband: We have already argued for Gideon Gono to be added to the EU list and will do so again. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has excluded Gono from the UK.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 19 October 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arm's Length Management Organisation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local ballots have been held on whether local authorities should convert their housing department to an arm's length management organisation; and what the result of each ballot was, including the percentage of those balloted voting for each option. [157320]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table lists which ALMOs have held ballots and the percentage of those balloted in favour of establishing an ALMO.

Local authority	*Turnout*	*Percentage In favour*
Derby	48	88
Hounslow	35	83
Kirklees	47	81
Rochdale	46	90
Stockton-on-Tees	44	93
Barnsley	25	57
Carrick	61	96
Colchester	57	76
Leeds—East	35	83
Leeds—North East	41	88
Leeds—North West	42	89
Leeds—South	39	91
Leeds—South East	40	88
Leeds—West	38	90
Waltham Forest	49	85
Camden	30	23
High Peak	60	98
Islington	27	85
Sheffield—Brightside and Shiregreen	42	78
Sheffield—Central Area	47	87
Sheffield—Hillsborough, Nether Thorpe	45	87
Sheffield—Parson Cross, Foxhill, Longley	38	94
Sheffield—Westfield, Hackenthorpe	43	89
South Lakeland	65	88
Bassetlaw	58	85
Hammersmith and Fulham	40	81
Hammersmith and Fulham	40	81
Nottingham	40	76
Slough	47	91
Wolverhampton	40	84
Lambeth	27	51

Balance of Funding Review: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost was to the public purse of the Balance of Funding Review. [157636]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1655W.

City Hall: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government Office for London's estimate was of the total cost to the public purse of the Greater London Authority's City Hall over the duration of the 25 year lease, based on the final contract signed by her Department's predecessor. [157690]

Mr. Dhanda: In January 2000, the then Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions signed an agreement with the developers of More London for the procurement of the City Hall as the headquarters of the Greater London Authority. This agreement set out the annual rent payable for City Hall, which amounts to a total of £171.2 million over the 25 year lease—£6.5 million a year on average.

Community Development: Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority local enterprise growth initiative bids included social enterprise in each round. [156817]

John Healey: Social enterprise can play a central and important part in promoting enterprise and assisting regeneration. Bidders for local enterprise growth initiative funding were therefore asked to consider how their proposals might support the development of social enterprise and how elements of their bid might be delivered through social business models. The majority of bids featured elements on developing social enterprise.

Copies of the successful bids for both rounds one and two can be found on our website at:

www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/legi.

Council Tax: Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average fire authority precept on Band D council tax was in England in each year since individual precepts were created. [157480]

John Healey: Details of the average fire authority precept for Band D two-adult properties in England since individual precepts were introduced are as follows:

	Metropolitan fire authorities	*Combined fire and rescue authorities*
1998-99	27	—
1999-2000	30	—
2000-01	32	—
2001-02	34	—
2002-03	36	—
2003-04	42	—
2004-05	45	53
2005-06	47	55
2006-07	49	58
2007-08	51	60

Prior to 2004-05, combined fire and rescue authorities were funded through grants from county councils, and not through a separate council tax precept.

The data are collected on Budget Requirement returns submitted annually by all billing and precepting authorities in England.

Council Tax: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assumed council tax collection rate is used by her Department in the grant distribution formula; and whether this assumed rate varies according to the type of local authority; [157675]

(2) whether councils which have poor *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates collection rates receive lower total funding after the adjustments of equalisation; and whether councils with above-average collection rates are allowed to keep the additional income after the adjustments of equalisation. [157698]

John Healey: No assumptions are made about an authority's collection rates of either council tax or business rates in the distribution to them of formula grant. Formula grant consists of Revenue Support Grant and redistributed National Non-Domestic Rates and, where appropriate, principal formula Police Grant.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister spent on preparing for the council tax revaluation in England prior to its postponement. [157559]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 25 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 327W.

Debts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the average level of household debt. [157620]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on average household debt. (157620)

Published figures identifying households separately in the National Accounts are not available and are only produced combined with non-profit institutions serving households.

Annual estimates of total UK households have only been available since 1996; previously up to 1991 they were produced decennially.

	Total financial liabilities of households and non-profit institutions serving households (£ million)	*Total number of UK households in millions*	*Average households financial liabilities in (£000)*
1991	450,412	22.9	19,651
1996	550,108	23.7	23,231
1997	586,659	23.8	24,650
1998	625,134	23.9	26,069
1999	675,599	24.0	28,056
2000	734,790	24.3	30,263
2001	810,665	24.4	33,183
2002	923,144	24.6	37,496
2003	1,046,913	24.7	42,419
2004	1,172,032	24.7	47,374
2005	1,249,393	24.8	50,318
2006	1,370,221	24.9	55,073

Source:
Total financial liabilities of the households and non-profit institutions serving households—United Kingdom Economic Accounts Quarter 2, 2007, ONS http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904 Total number of UK Households—Focus on Families 2007, ONS http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/families/

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on external public relations consultants and companies in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [157689]

Mr. Dhanda: Over the last 24 months, Communities and Local Government has spent £1.2 million on public relations activity to help meet our obligation to inform the public of changes in the law, and their rights and responsibilities.

This includes work to support the Department's Fire Safety campaign to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries caused by domestic fires, activity to support the campaign to encourage members of the public to use the online services provided by local authorities, and media coverage of the introduction of the Tenancy Deposit scheme to protect tenants from unscrupulous landlords.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contingency preparations her Department made for the

possibility of a general election being held in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157053]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 11 October 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 15 October 2007, *Official Report* column 822W.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices her Department and its predecessors have bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [156739]

Mr. Dhanda: After the 2005 election and up to the 2006 Cabinet reshuffle there were one laptop, seven mobile telephones and one PDA purchased for use by ODPM Ministers.

After the 2006 Cabinet reshuffle and up to the 2007 Cabinet reshuffle there were one laptop, one mobile phone and four PDAs purchased for use by Communities Ministers.

After the 2007 Cabinet reshuffle and to date there were one laptop, one mobile phone and one PDA purchased for use by Communities Ministers.

Providing figures for periods prior to the 2005 election would incur disproportionate costs.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many websites her Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running her Department's websites in the last five years. [157861]

Mr. Dhanda: During 2005 we had 22 unique websites plus 13 separately hosted sub-domains. As at 31 August 2007 the Department operated 16 unique websites and six separately hosted sub-domains.

To produce annual costs for all the Department's websites for each of the last five years would incur disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 958W to the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) for the list of websites under the Department's responsibility, and the annual running costs of those sites.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by her Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157862]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not centrally hold web usage statistics for all of its websites. Based on those sites where figures are held centrally and using the monthly unique visitor figures, the most frequently visited site is the corporate website: www.communities.gov.uk, which averaged 247,839 unique visitors per month from January to June 2007 and the least frequently visited site was the specialist local government site Best Value Performance Indicators: www.bvpi.gov.uk, which averaged 350 unique visitors per month over the same period.

Departments: Location

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent posts in her Department have been relocated out of London and the South East in the last 12 months; in which divisions; and to what locations. [157670]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department have relocated 65 full-time equivalent posts outside of London and the South East since 1 October 2006. All these posts were relocated by our non-departmental public bodies (Audit Commission, 25 posts relocated to Bristol and 40 Standards Board for England posts relocated to Manchester).

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by her Department in *(a)* April 2006 and *(b)* April 2007. [157669]

Mr. Dhanda: Staffing levels are measured as at the last day of each quarter. The Department for Communities and Local Government came into being on 5 May 2006. As at 31 March 2006 the predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, employed 2,348 full-time equivalent staff and at 31 March 2007 the Central Department for Communities and Local Government employed a total of 2,244 full-time equivalent staff. This does not include the Government Offices or the Department's Agencies.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were employed by her Department and its predecessor on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158329]

Mr. Dhanda: Statistics on staffing levels are collected as at the last day of each quarter. The numbers of staff in the Central Department for Communities and Local Government, and its predecessor, Office of Deputy Prime Minister on 31 December of each year are shown in the following table. This does not include staff in the Government Offices or the Department's Agencies.

	FTE[1]		
31 December	*Permanent employees*	*Temporary staff*	*Total*
2002	2,246	36	2,282
2003	2,350	77	2,427
2004	2,350	111	2,461
2005	2,317	77	2,394
2006	2,304	51	2,355

[1] Full-time equivalent.

Figures exclude those on unpaid absence from the Department. Temporary staff are those employed on fixed term contracts. They do not include temporary staff from agencies, contractors or consultants.

Contractors are employed on a number of contracts throughout the Department. Contracts are monitored by cost and no records of contractor staffing levels are held centrally.

Elections: Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for her Department *(a)* to consult on and *(b)* to decide whether to use the powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill if enacted to move the date of the May 2009 local elections to June 2009. [157478]

John Healey: No decisions have been taken as to whether, and if so how, to use the powers which may be available if the Bill is enacted to move the date of the 2009 local elections to coincide with the 2009 European elections.

Equal Opportunities Commission: Manpower

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), *Official Report*, column 1215W, on the Equal Opportunities Commission: manpower, what steps the Commission is taking to tackle the under-representation of men amongst employees of the Commission. [156245]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The Equal Opportunities Commission was dissolved on the 1 October 2007. The roles and responsibilities of the Equal Opportunities Commission will be taken forward by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire authorities in England and Wales have tri-service centres. [157657]

Mr. Dhanda: Currently only Gloucestershire and Wiltshire have tri-service centres.

Homelessness

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the Government defines people as being homeless. [157409]

Mr. Iain Wright: Sections 175 to 178 of the Housing Act 1996 define the circumstances when a person is statutorily homeless. Broadly, this provides that a person is homeless if they do not have accommodation that they have a legal right to occupy, which is accessible and physically available to them (and their household) and which it would be reasonable for them to continue to live in. It would not be reasonable for someone to continue to live in their home, for example, if that was likely to lead to violence against them (or a member of their family).

"Guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping (2007 Revision)", which the Department has published for the purposes of local authority rough sleeping counts, advises that the following should be considered as 'rough sleeping':

"People sleeping, or bedded down, in the open air (such as on streets, or in doorways, parks or bus shelters); people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or "bashes")"

"Guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping" has no statutory force.

Homelessness: Females

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will revise the Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities to classify women fleeing domestic violence as unintentionally homeless and in priority need. [157402]

Mr. Iain Wright: The "Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities" provides guidance in respect of women fleeing domestic violence which accords with legislation and case law. Under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996), a person is homeless if they have accommodation available but it would not be reasonable for them to continue to occupy it. It is not considered reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation if it is probable that this will lead to domestic violence or other violence against that person (or against someone who normally resides as a member of that person's family, or any other person who might reasonably be expected to reside with that person).

In 2002 the Government extended, by Order, the categories of housing applicant who has a priority need for accommodation. These include a person who is vulnerable as a result of ceasing to occupy accommodation because of violence from another person or threats of violence from another person which are likely to be carried out.

Broadly, the Code of Guidance states that a person fleeing a probability of violence is not to be considered intentionally homeless even if they were aware of measures that could have been taken to prevent or mitigate the risk of violence but decided not to take them.

Homelessness: Floods

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people remain displaced from their homes due to the floods in June and July. [158148]

John Healey: The information requested on how many people remain displaced from their homes due to the floods in June and July 2007 is not held centrally.

The latest estimate of the total number of households that remain in alternative accommodation due to the floods in June and July is 2,740. This figure

is based on the information that has been provided by local authorities and may not include those households who have made private arrangements or those who have secured alternative accommodation through their insurance companies.

Housing: Armed Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she plans to make it a requirement for local authorities to accept applications from members of HM armed forces for social housing on leaving the services; and if she will make a statement; [157786]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that local authorities do not discriminate against members of HM armed forces applying for social housing who have left the services earlier than the period for which they had signed up. [157788]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are required to consider every application for housing accommodation including those from a member of HM armed forces, provided it is made in accordance with the procedural requirements of their allocation scheme. Furthermore, local authorities must treat every applicant as eligible for an allocation of accommodation, with the exception of certain persons from abroad specified in regulations; and persons whom an authority decides to treat as ineligible because they (or a member of their household) have been guilty of unacceptable behaviour serious enough to make them unsuitable to be a tenant of the authority.

The hon. Member in asking the question is perhaps referring to the application of "local connection" in respect of the allocation of social housing under the Housing Act 1996. At the moment members of the armed forces cannot establish a local connection with the area in which they are stationed or work. This can put the members of the armed forces at a disadvantage where a local authority takes account of local connection in its allocation scheme.

In this respect I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 108WS, by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning in which it was announced that we would make the necessary changes to housing legislation, at the earliest opportunity, to ensure that service personnel are put on an equal footing with other people when applying for an allocation of social housing.

The fact that a person may have left the services earlier than the period for which he or she signed up is not a relevant factor in determining their eligibility or priority for an allocation of social housing.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals obtained a tenancy of social housing without holding an existing social housing tenancy in each year since 1997. [155989]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities in England report the number of lettings in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Registered social landlords record the number of lettings on their CORE lettings logs. These two data sources together give the total number of new social lettings in England to tenants entering the social rented housing sector in each year since 1997, as at 1 April each year.

The total number of new social lettings to new social housing tenants in England from the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns and CORE lettings logs in each year since 1997 are provided in table 1 and table 2. Due to different data collection processes, these data sources are not necessarily directly comparable.

Table 1: Local authority social lettings to new social housing tenants in England

	Local authority lets
1997	259,690
1998	258,510
1999	250,210
2000	235,570
2001	222,330
2002	196,540
2003	191,050
2004	161,940
2005	149,090
2006	133,300

Note:
As reported by local authorities. Rounded to nearest 10.
Source:
Communities and local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix Return

Table 2: Registered Social Landlord lettings to new social housing tenants in England

	RSL lets
1997	118,200
1998	129,100
1999	138,100
2000	139,200
2001	139,700
2002	145,600
2003	145,900
2004	147,300
2005	141,400
2006	143,200

Note:
As reported by Registered Social Landlords. Rounded to nearest 100
Source:
Continuous Recording of Social Lettings Log

Housing: Prices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price for a *(a)* house, *(b)* detached house and *(c)* flat was in each local authority area in England and Wales in (i) April 1991, (ii) May 1997 and (iii) the most recent period for which figures are available, according to Land Registry data. [158196]

Mr. Iain Wright: HM Land Registry data for 1991 is unavailable.

A table presenting HM Land Registry data on the *(a)* average house price, *(b)* average price for a detached house and *(c)* average price for a flat by local authority area for May 1997 and March 2007 (provisional) has been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Rural Areas

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the target of 50 homes set by the West Midlands Regional Housing Board for settlements of less than 10,000 for the three year comprehensive spending review period in addressing housing need in those rural areas. [157400]

Mr. Iain Wright: The target set by the Regional Housing Board of 50 homes was set prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07) announced by the Chancellor on 9 October. West Midlands' assessment of need for affordable housing was based on the allocation received for the 2006 to 2008 funding period. There was the anticipation that the strategy would need to be revisited once the final CSR07 allocation is known.

On 16 October my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Housing, announced a £10.2 billion package for housing and we anticipate that this will support a 50 per cent. increase in annual social rents outputs by 2010-11 in comparison with this year (2007-08) in addition to other measures to tackle the need for affordable housing.

In the Housing Green Paper, we announced that we would be establishing a national target for rural affordable housing across the three years 2008 to 2011. With this in mind, my Department is working with the regional assemblies to assess need for rural affordable housing in their areas and what provision should be in the light of the CSR settlement.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the target of 65 homes set by the East of England Regional Housing Board for settlements of less than 10,000 for the three year comprehensive spending review period in addressing housing need in those rural areas. [157401]

Mr. Iain Wright: The target set by the East of England Regional Housing Board of 65 homes was set prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07) announced by the Chancellor on 9 October. The East of England's assessment of need for affordable housing was based on the level of funding received for the 2006 to 2008 funding period and projected forward to arrive at an indicative allocation for 2008 to 2011.

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In the Housing Green Paper, we announced that we would be establishing a national target for rural affordable housing across the three years 2008 to 2011. With this in mind, my Department is working with the regional assemblies to assess need for rural affordable housing in their areas and what provision should be in the light of the CSR settlement.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency's value significant codes of *(a)* ZL, *(b)* ZI and *(c)* ZH have a (i) positive and (ii) negative co-efficient applied to the variable in the multiple regression formula used in its automated valuation model. [155693]

John Healey: Coefficients are not applied to a variable in the multiple regression formula. Multiple regression analysis determines whether an attribute is statistically significant in explaining an element of variation in the price achieved in a property transaction. Whether a positive or negative coefficient results for any attribute will vary *(a)* each time analysis of sales information is undertaken *(b)* from area to area and *(c)* between property types (e.g. flats and houses).

Land use

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department and its agencies have made of the amount and proportion of land-banking by property developers in the form of not initiating developments which have been granted planning permission. [157680]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no centrally held information from which we could estimate the amount and proportion of 'land banking' by property developers.

Local Authorities: Accountability

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the powers of redress for local residents in relation to services provided by local authorities. [157488]

John Healey: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill contains a provision to take forward the Community Call for Action mechanism which contains a statutory process for ward councillors to act on concerns from the local community to resolve problems with local government services.

As part of the "Governance of Britain" Green Paper the Government committed to consulting on ways of increasing citizen's powers of redress to scrutinise and improve the delivery of local services and to consider a duty that requires local authorities to consider and investigate petitions from local communities.

Local Authorities: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use is made of damping mechanisms in the allocation of formula grants to local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [157666]

John Healey: Within the local government finance settlements for 2006-07 and 2007-08, there are two damping sub-blocks within the Relative Needs

Formulae—one for Children's Social Care and one for Younger Adults' Personal Social Services.

We also use floor damping in the final calculation of formula grant.

Local Authorities: Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure local authorities support social enterprise. [156844]

John Healey: The Department launched a third sector strategy discussion paper on 7 June which included consideration of the need of third sector organisations for more sustainable forms of investment and improvements in local partnership working.

More than 150 written responses have been received. Over 450 delegates took part in eight regional consultation events on the paper. In addition, the responses received are being considered and we aim to publish a final strategy, including propositions of how the Department and local authorities can work in partnership and support the third sector, including social enterprises.

Local Authorities: Petitions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to introduce legislation to introduce a duty on local authorities to consider petitions. [157467]

John Healey: As the recently published; "Governance of Britain" Green Paper states, the Government are considering introducing a duty that requires local authorities to consider and investigate petitions from local communities, and guarantees petitioners and the wider community a response on the issues which have been raised. We intend to consult about this in the near future.

Local Authorities: Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she plans to introduce legislation to require local ballots on spending decisions by local authorities; [157465]

(2) whether she plans to require local authorities to implement citizens' juries. [157472]

John Healey: In the recently published "Governance of Britain" Green Paper the Government announced their desire to help create active citizens and empowered communities who are fully engaged in local decision-making. As part of this process the Government have proposed a number of ideas to debate and consult on, including introducing powers to ballot on spending decisions and consulting on major decisions through mechanisms such as Citizen's Juries.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets her Department sets for local authorities, including under the public service agreement, local area agreement and best value performance indicator regimes, in relation to the *(a)* number of benefit awards and *(b)* number of unclaimed benefits. [157683]

John Healey: Neither Communities and Local Government nor the Department for Work and Pensions sets targets for local authorities on the number of benefit awards and the number of unclaimed benefits. Local authorities may, if they wish, include targets on these issues in their local area agreements (including for reward) which are agreed with central Government.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date she expects the next Local Government Finance Settlement statement to take place. [157667]

John Healey: The date of the statement will be announced by the Leader of the House in due course.

Local Government Finance: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local government revenue expenditure in England was financed through council tax in each year since 1996-97. [157641]

John Healey: Outturn information for years up to 2005-06 can be found in Table 3.5c of Local Government Financial Statistics England No. 17 2007 at the following web address:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/2007/index.htm.

Local Government: Cooperation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for a concordat between local and central Government. [157468]

John Healey: The "Governance of Britain" Green Paper contains a commitment that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) will work with the Local Government Association (LGA) to establish a concordat to govern the relations between central and local government. Discussions between CLG and the LGA are ongoing. CLG will provide further detail about publication of the concordat in due course.

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to use powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, if enacted, to delay the date of the May 2009 local elections. [158073]

John Healey: No decisions have been taken as to whether, and if so how, to use the powers which may be available if the Bill is enacted to move the date of the 2009 local elections to coincide with the 2009 European elections.

Local Government: Television Channels

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure has been incurred to date by her Department on the Local Government Today television channel. [155710]

Mr. Dhanda: As at 3 October 2007 no publicity expenditure has been incurred by Communities and Local Government on the Local Government Today television channel.

Mobile Phones: Aerials

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will amend planning guidance on mobile telephone masts to make disclosure of mast locations and power levels to a Sitefinder website or equivalent a condition of planning permission. [157501]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans to amend planning guidance in this way. The Government and the Office of Communications (Ofcom) remain committed to the principles underlying Sitefinder.

Each of the mobile network operators is in discussion with Ofcom and the Government on the future provision of data to Sitefinder so that members of the public will continue to be able to access information about the location of base stations in their neighbourhood.

Non-Domestic Rates: Assessment

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance used by the Valuation Office Agency on undertaking assessment casework for non-domestic rates valuations. [152527]

John Healey: A copy of the relevant instruction and guidance to Valuation Office Agency staff on undertaking assessment casework for business rates has been placed in the Library.

Planning

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the Planning White Paper. [157442]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning White Paper covered a wide variety of issues and included a number of questions upon which we went to consultation. This closed on 17 August 2007. We received over 30,000 responses which we are currently in the process of analysing. The Government will produce a summary of responses, including next steps, shortly. However, Ministers continue to receive a range of letters and other representations on the issues raised in the Planning White Paper.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government have spent on preparatory work carried out on the planning gain supplement; and if she will make a statement. [158013]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Department for Communities and Local Government have undertaken preliminary work since 2004 to develop and explore the feasibility of a planning gain supplement. This has included the publication of one consultation document alongside the 2005 pre-Budget report and three consultation documents alongside the 2006 pre-Budget report. The costs incurred have been borne by the respective Departments as part of the normal policy development process.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department and its agencies have made of the proportion of residential planning applications granted each year which are not commenced. [157679]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no estimate centrally available but the Government are keen to see faster take up and commencement of planning permissions granted for housing development. We have recently reduced the period for which a planning permission remains valid from five years to three years. We have also made it clear in planning policy that there is no presumption that planning permission will be renewed in the case where an applicant is seeking, in effect, to renew a permission that has expired.

In our Housing Green Paper: "Homes for the Future; more affordable, more sustainable" we said that we would consider whether further measures are needed to incentivise developers to build out major housing development sites more quickly through the development control process. We shall also want to take account of anything that John Calcutt says in the independent review of house-building delivery we asked him to undertake. He is due to report on this shortly.

Planning: Agriculture

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of which local plans, broken down by Government Office of the Region, she has made a direction, under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to not save a local plan policy of protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land. [157347]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following local authorities' requests to extend saved policies specifically aimed at protecting the "best and most versatile" (BMV) agricultural land were not agreed by the Secretary of State:

South East

Bracknell Forest
Chiltern
Crawley
Guildford
Hart
Medway
Runnymede
Wycombe

South West

Restormel
Torbay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to planning policy on the protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land since May 1997. [157447]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's planning policy on best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land is set out in "Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable development in rural areas" (PPS7), published in August 2004. PPS7 replaced "Planning Policy Guidance note 7: The Countryside, Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development" (PPG7), published in February 1997, which included policy guidance on (BMV) agricultural land.

PPG7 said that, within the principles of sustainable development, BMV agricultural land (defined as grades 1, 2 and 3a) should be protected as a national resource for future generations and its development should not be permitted before opportunities had been assessed for using previously developed or lower grade land.

In December 2000 the Government's Rural White Paper "Our Countryside: the future", signalled that policy affecting planning decisions relating to BMV land should be changed. The White Paper said that decisions about proposed development affecting BMV agricultural land should take account of the overall value of the land and that agricultural quality should be treated only as one factor. It therefore proposed that BMV agricultural land should no longer be protected as a national agricultural resource and that decisions about proposed development affecting such land should left to local planning authorities. It also proposed that powers for the Minister of Agriculture to intervene in decisions on BMV agricultural land should be repealed.

PPG7 was subsequently amended by a parliamentary answer given by the then planning Minister the right hon. Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr. Raynsford) on 21 March 2001 to reflect the White Paper's policy proposals.

These policy changes were carried forward into PPS7. This asks local authorities that the presence of BMV agricultural land should be taken into account alongside other sustainability considerations when determining planning applications. The policy also says that where significant development of agricultural land is unavoidable, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality, except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations. If any undeveloped agricultural land needs to be developed, the policy requires any adverse effects on the environment should be minimised.

Planning: Crime Prevention

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what consultation her Department has undertaken with the police on the new planning application form planned for use nationally from April 2008; [158052]

(2) if she will require the inclusion of a question on crime prevention measures in the new standard planning application form. [158053]

Mr. Iain Wright: Consultation proposals for the standard planning application form were published in March 2005.

The form does not include a question on crime prevention measures. The form cannot be changed at this stage as some local planning authorities are using it before it becomes mandatory on 6 April 2008.

Local planning authorities should have regard to Planning Policy Statement 1: Sustainable Development which states that their policies should ensure that developments create safe environments where crime or fear of crime does not undermine quality of life.

Property: Public Sector

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties are held on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land database; and what property attributes are recorded for each property. [158407]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Register for Surplus Public Sector Land is managed by English Partnerships on behalf of Government. It identifies land held centrally by central Government and their agencies that is surplus to operational requirements. The register allows a 40-day period for public bodies to express an interest in an area of land prior to it being marketed more widely. The most recent version of the register was published on 30 September 2007 and is available at:

www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/rspsl.htm

This provides site information by county, local authority, originating body, nearest town and area. The information provided about individual properties is the site area and a short description or location. To date around 70 public sector bodies have supplied details of more than 750 sites, totalling around 5,000 hectares of land.

Race Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which organisations or individuals the Preventing Extremism Unit has made grants of less than £100,000 since June. [158619]

Mr. Dhanda: Since June 2007 the Preventing Extremism Unit has made direct grants of less than £100,000 to:

Organisation	£
Business in the Community (BITC)	70,000
Common Purpose	40,000
Muslim Youth Helpline	35,000
Muslim Youth Development Partnership, made up of:	40,000
Karimia Institute (grant recipient)	
Crime Concern	
Muslim Hands	
Sizanani Africa	20,000

No grants have been made to individuals.

Regional Development Agencies: Planning Gain Supplement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is the Government's intention that regional development agencies will keep part of the revenues raised from planning gain supplement. [157502]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2007 pre-Budget report announced on 9 October that legislation implementing the planning gain supplement will not be introduced in the next parliamentary Session. Instead, the Government intend to legislate in the forthcoming Planning Reform Bill to empower local planning authorities in England to apply new planning charges to new development, alongside negotiated agreements for site-specific matters. The ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning, also on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 25WS, set out further details of the new planning charge.

Smoking: Enforcement

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures she has in place for *(a)* recording and *(b)* proceeding against (i) ministers and (ii) staff who breach the ban on smoking in enclosed public places; and if she will make a statement. [157515]

Mr. Dhanda: Staff in Communities and Local Government who breach the ban on smoking in enclosed public spaces would be dealt with under the Department's disciplinary rules. All penalties given to staff under the disciplinary rules are recorded. Staff in Communities and Local Government smoking in areas in or around its buildings where it is prohibited would be asked by security staff to move to an acceptable location. Any who might refuse or who repeatedly try to smoke in a such an area would be reported for disciplinary action.

Speeches: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the presentation, speech and handouts produced by her Department's representatives at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Annual Conference on 10 October 2007 on the challenge of GC and e-connectivity to enable transformation. [157497]

John Healey: A copy of the presentation made by Balraj Sandhu, Senior Business and Stakeholder Manager Government Connect Programme of Communities and Local Government, at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Annual Conference on 10 October 2007 is available on the Government Connect website,

www.govconnect.gov.uk.

Standards Board for England: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the *(a)* Standards Board for England and *(b)* Adjudication Panel is for (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [157624]

John Healey: The Department has agreed to provide the Standards Board with grant funding of £9.371 million for 2007-08. This includes a sum of £515,000 to meet the operational costs of the Adjudication Panel. An additional payment of £599,000 in 2007-08 has been agreed in respect of the costs relating to the Standards Board's relocation from London to Manchester.

No decisions have been taken in respect of the grant to be allocated to the Standards Board for 2008-09.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1156W, on the Valuation Office, on what aspects of domestic valuations Cole Layer Trumble are providing consultancy advice. [157553]

John Healey: Cole Layer Trumble are not providing any consultancy advice on domestic valuations.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on flowers in the last 12 months. [153160]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1131W.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many people have been appointed to his Office outside Civil Service grades in the last 30 days. [153162]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1132W.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid to military personnel stationed in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) elsewhere through the Joint Personnel Administration system in 2007. [154548]

Derek Twigg: The number of over and underpayments resulting from Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system errors in 2007 can be provided, although the information requested for Afghanistan and elsewhere is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The figures are:

Month	*Overpaid*	*Underpaid*	*Total*
January	161	1,383	1,544
February	70	0	70
March	229	54	283
April	13,908	252	14,160
May	3,340	1,181	4,521
June	0	90	90
July	2,978	416	3,394
August[1]	0	51,917	51,917

[1] Figures for August are subject to revision and refinement.

The increase in the number of overpayments in April was due primarily to transitional data errors from the Army legacy systems where elements were not picked up as expected by the JPA system. Records were corrected in time for the May payroll.

In August 35,553 incorrect payments of £3.00 were made to the discontinued RN and Royal Marines Dependants' Fund. The error has been corrected and the money will be re-credited to pay accounts in October.

In addition 16,364 underpayments of Home to Duty Travel claims for RN reservists occurred. The error has been corrected and the claims have reprocessed for payment in September.

Armed Forces: Personnel Management

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the full implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration project; and if he will make a statement. [154546]

Derek Twigg: The Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system is one of the most complex business change projects in either the private or public sector. It has been successfully rolled-out on time to all three Services; to the RAF from April 2006; to the RN from October 2006; and to the Army from March 2007.

Since the initial roll-out of JPA to the RAF much has been achieved to improve the quality of the service being provided and to address problems. Personnel are more familiar with the new system and the business processes that it supports. But we are still in a transitional phase and there will be a further period of 'bedding down' which is bound to highlight the need for further business process, technical and training changes.

JPA now provides a stable, modern platform to support our Services. However, like all major change programmes of this complexity it will take a period of further refinement in order to exploit its full potential. I remain fully committed to delivering an excellent pay and personnel administration service to our armed forces.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles are in service with the Army, broken down by type. [157042]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of armoured vehicles of each type that are in service with the Army as at 10 October 2007 are shown in the following table.

Vehicle type	*Number in service in 2007*
AS 90	146
Combat Engineer Tractor (CET)	78
Challenger 2 (CR 2) Fleet	345
Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle (CRARRV)	81
Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) (CVR(T)) Fleet	1118
FUCHS	11
FV432 Fleet	1492
Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS)	59
SAXON Fleet	413
SHIELDER	30
STORMER	148
TROJAN	14
TITAN	16
WARRIOR Fleet	385
VIKING	40

These figures include those armoured vehicles used for training and undergoing in depth maintenance. Not included are those vehicles considered 'protected' such as the MASTIFF protected patrol vehicles.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* the least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157866]

Derek Twigg: Total page views for the most popular and the least popular websites run by the Ministry of Defence are as follows:

	Site + URL	Total page views (number of times individual pages in the site accessed)
Most popular	RAF: http://www.raf.mod.uk	[1]36.2 million
Least popular	MOD Art Collection: www.art.mod.uk	[2]2,000

[1] Figures for January—October 2007.
[2] Financial year 2006-07.

Military Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Mastiff vehicle will be *(a)* delivered to the UK and *(b)* shipped to theatre. [157077]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 202, during the Defence Procurement debate.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the ordered 140 Mastiff vehicles announced during the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-38, will be sent to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and by what date in each case; [157138]

(2) from which budget funding will be provided for the 140 additional Mastiff vehicles announced by the Prime Minister in his statement on Iraq update of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-38. [158389]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I said during the procurement debate in the House on 9 October, the Defence budget will be funding the procurement of additional Mastiff vehicles. Although delivery schedules have not yet been confirmed, we anticipate that they will be deployed on operations within the next 18 months. The allocation of these vehicles to Iraq, Afghanistan and the UK based training fleet will be a matter for commanders.

RNAS Yeovilton

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future role of RNAS Yeovilton. [157593]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The future role of RNAS Yeovilton is currently being considered as part of Programme Belvedere, which was announced in 2006 and set up to conduct a study into the long term requirements for Joint Helicopter Command's helicopter bases in the UK, originally part of the MOD review of Defence Airfields.

Programme Belvedere's review is ongoing; consequently, no decisions have yet been taken on the future role of any of the bases included in the review. Once the programme has reached its conclusions, a ministerial announcement will be made. This is not expected before early 2009.

JUSTICE

Peterborough Prison: Drugs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many seizures of illicit drugs have taken place at HMP Peterborough in each month since May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [159049]

Mr. Hanson: The answer is provided in the following table.

Seizures of Illicit Drugs by Month: HMP Peterborough

	Number	
	Male	Female
2005		
May	1	0
June	0	0
July	3	0
August	0	0
September	1	1
October	0	0
November	1	0
December	0	0
2006		
January	1	1
February	1	0
March	5	2
April	1	0
May	1	1
June	2	0
July	0	1
August	5	0
September	3	2
October	4	0
November	6	2
December	5	0
2007		
January	1	0
February	5	2
March	5	0
April	2	1
May	4	1
June	8	2
July	4	0
August	2	1
September	3	0
October	1	0
November		
December		

Repossession Orders: Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether an estimate has been made of the number of mortgage repossessions which would be classified as subprime mortgages. [158195]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not hold these figures. The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes the total numbers of properties taken into possession, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

TRANSPORT

Bicycles: Accidents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents there were involving cyclists in Peterborough constituency in each of the last five years. [158960]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cyclist in the Peterborough constituency in the last five years is shown in the following table.

Peterborough constituency

	Number of accidents
2002	72
2003	98
2004	78
2005	64
2006	62

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many websites her Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running her Department's websites in the last five years. [157921]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Current figures for the Department for Transport and its executive agencies are as follows:

80 operating websites have been identified, 71 of these have been listed for closure by end 2011 of which 17 have already closed.

The Department is currently undertaking a programme of website rationalisation under the Transformational Government Agenda. Figures for central Government Department websites were published in January this year in the Transformational Government Annual Report 2006 as part of the departmental website review (http://www.cio.gov.uk/transformational_government/annual_report_2006/). Updated figures were subsequently reported in the National Audit Office Government on the Internet Report published in July 2007. (http://www.governmentontheweb.org/access_reports.asp)

There is no central list of departmental sites that operated in January 2005 and to obtain such a retrospective list could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Estimated running costs for departmental sites where available, were previously provided to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 648-49W. No additional information for running costs for the last five years is available.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* identification documents and *(b)* driving licences are required to receive a full EU driving licence. [159664]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Driving licences issued in the UK conform to the format and standard laid out in the second EC directive on driver licensing (91/439/EEC) and are considered to be EU driving licences.

All applicants for a first driving licence must provide evidence of identity. This is usually a passport but, in instances where a passport is not available, alternative documentation will be considered. If there is any doubt concerning the applicant's identity, a licence will not be issued.

The holder of a full driving licence issued elsewhere within the EU/European economic area may apply to exchange their licence for a full UK licence. Driving licences from the following countries may also be exchanged: Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Faroe Islands, Falkland Islands, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland and Zimbabwe. Any application to exchange a licence must be accompanied by evidence of identity.

I am unable to comment on the arrangements concerning identification checking for the issue of driving licences elsewhere in the European Union.

Internet: Standards

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has made an assessment of the effectiveness of the website Arrive Alive. [159488]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Arrive Alive website's main aim is to promote the Arrive Alive programme to schools to deliver important road safety messages to schools and other organisations.

There is no assessment made on the effectiveness of the Arrive Alive website. However, during the months from 30 September 2006 to 30 September 2007 there were 50,877 visits to the website, which equate to 139 average daily visits. This shows a positive interest in the programme.

Railway Network

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's latest estimate is of the cost of constructing a high speed rail line between London and Scotland via *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* the west midlands and the north-west. [160042]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The capital cost of constructing a new high speed railway line between London and Scotland is likely to be some £30 billion, whichever route is taken. Presently there is no justification case for such expenditure. Considerable improvements are already being made to the West Coast Main Line to accelerate Anglo-Scottish journey times for introduction in December 2008.

Road Safety Campaigns

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 42-43, on road safety campaigns, how many hits the www.hedgehogs.gov.uk site received in each month since October 2006; and what further assessment of the effectiveness of the website has been conducted since November 2006. [159487]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of hits (total number of successful requests for pages) the hedgehogs website has received since October 2006 is set out in the table. As provided in November 2006, I have also enclosed the figures for the distinct number of hosts served.

As mentioned previously, the hedgehogs website is one medium within a broad mix of media channels such as online advertising, PR, partnership marketing and road safety materials used to raise awareness about road safety to children. Our advertising drives children to the hedgehogs site to engage them in more comprehensive road safety information in a fun and engaging way.

Visitor numbers to the site remain encouraging and given the growing proportion of children moving to the internet as their primary medium, we shall continue to use online advertising and web presence to help to boost road safety awareness among children.

Month	*Hits*[1]	*Visitors*[2]
2006		
November	161,435	26,053
December	148,040	47,868
2007		
January	123,701	21,668
February	142,438	36,557
March	152,926	33,828
April	121,144	26,101
May	155,984	30,867
June	149,293	29,568
July	136,569	33,880
August	104,979	27,211
September	123,131	27,325

[1] Total number of successful requests for pages.
[2] Number of distinct hosts served.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime: Children

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed by children in Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years, broken down by type of offence. [158805]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally. Details of the age of the offender are not collected in the recorded crime statistics.

Departments: Parliamentary Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library copies of *(a)* written guidance and instructions provided to officials in her Department who draft parliamentary answers and *(b)* the declaration required to be made by such officials on submitting drafts for ministerial approval; and if she will make a statement. [156848]

Mr. McNulty: I have arranged for the relevant documents to be placed in the Library of the House.

Lancashire Constabulary: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police are employed in Lancashire; and how many there were employed in 1997. [158654]

Mr. McNulty: The number of full-time equivalent police officers (rounded to the nearest whole number, excluding those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave) was 3,566 as at 31 March 2007. As at 31 March 1997 the figure was 3,248 on the same basis.

Metropolitan Police: Emergency Calls

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will make a statement on the performance of the Metropolitan police emergency call system; [155640]

(2) what assessment she has made of the performance of the Metropolitan police emergency call system on 20 July 2007; [155643]

Mr. McNulty: In 2005-06, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary undertook a baseline inspection of emergency and non-emergency contact management systems for the police forces of England and Wales. Under this review, the Metropolitan police performance was classified as 'Fair'. There has not been a similar or specific assessment of the performance of the Metropolitan police's emergency and non-emergency contact management system for 21 July 2005 nor for 20 July 2007.

Police

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local authority wards comprise each police force basic command unit. [158130]

Mr. McNulty: A spreadsheet has been produced which details, for each local authority ward area, which police basic command unit and local authority area the ward falls within. Due to the volume of data in the spreadsheet, a copy of this will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Police: Festivals and Special Occasions

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the operation of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme; what progress has been made in extending its remit to cover the training of stewards and road marshals for local events; and if she will make a statement. [159151]

Mr. McNulty: Community Safety Accreditation Schemes enable chief officers to designate limited powers under the Police Reform Act to employees of approved organisations who contribute towards community safety. These powers include the power to regulate traffic.

It is a matter for the chief officer to decide the extent and content of the training undertaken by the employee(s) in order to be accredited and designated particular powers, and it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure its employee(s) receive that training.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each police force in each year since 1997. [158855]

Mr. McNulty: The information is shown in the following table.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007

Police force	*1997[3]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[4]*	*2002*	*2003[5]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*
Avon and Somerset	2,989	2,976	2,999	2,934	2,994	3,096	3,149	3,401	3,384	3,389	3,375
Bedfordshire	1,094	1,079	1,041	1,028	1,036	1,069	1,106	1,181	1,215	1,198	1,185
Cambridgeshire	1,302	1,291	1,274	1,237	1,296	1,362	1,384	1,400	1,402	1,430	1,381
Cheshire	2,046	2,042	2,071	2,011	2,002	2,059	2,119	2,177	2,186	2,174	2,192
Cleveland	1,459	1,483	1,416	1,404	1,407	1,461	1,582	1,687	1,676	1,677	1,713
Cumbria	1,144	1,164	1,126	1,084	1,048	1,100	1,140	1,222	1,232	1,230	1,244
Derbyshire	1,791	1,772	1,759	1,777	1,823	1,848	2,003	2,070	2,070	2,046	2023
Devon and Cornwall	2,865	2,962	2,887	2,841	2,934	3,053	3,202	3,283	3,369	3,493	3,476
Dorset	1,284	1,310	1,279	1,306	1,354	1,381	1,416	1,433	1,450	1,485	1,492
Durham	1,461	1,515	1,568	1,558	1,595	1,614	1,651	1,685	1,718	1,699	1,683
Essex	2,961	2,928	2,891	2,806	2,897	2,946	2,989	3,098	3,190	3,279	3,297
Gloucestershire	1,133	1,104	1,104	1,114	1,173	1,183	1,227	1,284	1,291	1,289	1,303
Greater Manchester	6,922	6,949	6,810	6,795	6,909	7,217	7,343	8,042	8,041	7,959	7,887
Hampshire	3,452	3,490	3,473	3,419	3,438	3,480	3,668	3,706	3,725	3,707	3,796
Hertfordshire	1,759	1,740	1,724	1,767	1,922	1,825	1,957	2,086	2,104	2,126	2,159
Humberside	2,045	2,021	1,974	1,932	1,917	2,058	2,105	2,213	2,230	2,224	2,227
Kent	3,260	3,251	3,201	3,204	3,319	3,355	3,487	3,576	3,586	3,599	3,664
Lancashire	3,248	3,257	3,245	3,179	3,255	3,304	3,339	3,550	3,551	3,583	3,566
Leicestershire	1,949	1,983	1,993	1,993	2,032	2,100	2,114	2,277	2,283	2,250	2,225
Lincolnshire	1,196	1,191	1,140	1,115	1,202	1,198	1,221	1,228	1,221	1,213	1,221
London, City of	859	825	778	732	703	764	808	853	876	869	854
Merseyside	4,230	4,216	4,211	4,085	4,081	4,125	4,099	4,122	4,317	4,269	4,413
Metropolitan Police	26,677	26,094	26,073	25,485	24,878	26,223	27,984	29,735	30,710	30,536	30,710
Norfolk	1,432	1,430	1,381	1,381	1,420	1,468	1,499	1,510	1,544	1,557	1,565
Northamptonshire	1,177	1,169	1,137	1,117	1,157	1,214	1,210	1,239	1,267	1,317	1,281
Northumbria	3,677	3,769	3,840	3,788	3,857	3,929	3,943	4,040	4,048	3,983	3,917
North Yorkshire	1,338	1,367	1,337	1,283	1,305	1,417	1,444	1,529	1,543	1,636	1,654
Nottinghamshire	2,323	2,323	2,225	2,204	2,275	2,330	2,411	2,484	2,502	2,477	2,410
South Yorkshire	3,159	3,182	3,168	3,163	3,197	3,199	3,183	3,279	3,265	3,255	3,254
Staffordshire	2,211	2,292	2,238	2,170	2,129	2,133	2,202	2,266	2,280	2,272	2,288
Suffolk	1,174	1,186	1,190	1,145	1,133	1,203	1,253	1,304	1,313	1,300	1,342
Surrey	1,620	1,608	1,662	1,785	2,066	1,992	1,906	1,913	1,915	1,922	1,914
Sussex	3,085	2,996	2,847	2,822	2,855	2,893	2,989	3,039	3,044	3,092	3,077
Thames Valley	3,695	3,776	3,748	3,740	3,703	3,762	3,833	4,034	4,114	4,229	4,197
Warwickshire	926	924	908	900	926	969	997	1,008	1,011	1,032	1,059
West Mercia	2,040	2,010	2,025	1,887	1,951	2,018	2,256	2,355	2,367	2,351	2,400
West Midlands	7,113	7,156	7,321	7,194	7,423	7,681	7,751	7,887	8,056	8,097	8,173
West Yorkshire	5,209	5,155	4,982	4,822	4,815	4,889	5,029	5,275	5,631	5,644	5,655
Wiltshire	1,154	1,156	1,151	1,118	1,120	1,157	1,158	1,217	1,222	1,219	1,204
Dyfed-Powys	1,005	1,002	1,026	1,040	1,055	1,132	1,149	1,160	1,174	1,182	1,177
Gwent	1,243	1,233	1,247	1,264	1,274	1,333	1,341	1,372	1,438	1,467	1,493
North Wales	1,369	1,396	1,391	1,403	1,444	1,506	1,539	1,603	1,652	1,617	1,591

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007

Police force	*1997[3]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[4]*	*2002*	*2003[5]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*
South Wales	2,976	2,986	2,981	2,926	3,154	3,222	3,239	3,279	3,281	3,263	3,297
Total England and Wales	125,051	124,756	123,841	121,956	123,476	127,267	131,426	137,105	139,491	139,631	140,032

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhmney Valley from South Wales Police to Gwent Police.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan Police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[5] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

TREASURY

Excise Duties: Diesel Fuel

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to minimise the financial impact on pleasure boat users of the end of the UK's derogation allowing the sale of rebated gas oil for pleasure boating. [158751]

Angela Eagle: Officials have been discussing with various representative organisations ways of implementing the new regime which will both minimise the impact on pleasure boat users, and ensure that any additional compliance burden is as small as possible. As part of this process, HMRC published at 1 August 2007 a consultation on options for the implementation of the new regime. As announced at Budget 2007, private pleasure craft owners will continue to be able to use red diesel at the rebated duty rate until 1 November 2008.

Marriage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* marriage and *(b)* divorce rate of each ethnic group was in each year since 1980. [158641]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary questions asking for marriage and divorce rates for each ethnic group for persons, and then separately for males and females, for each year from 1980 (158641).

In England and Wales the ethnicity of either partner is not recorded at the registration of a marriage nor at the recording of a divorce by the Court Service. I am, therefore, unable to provide you with the statistics you requested.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimates of the number of migrant workers in the UK are in each year from 1997 to 2012; and if he will make a statement. [158565]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of employed people in the United Kingdom who were migrant workers from 1997 to 2012. (158565)

The attached table gives the number of employed people aged 16 and over who were either United Kingdom or foreign born, for the three month period ending June, for each year since 1997 up to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000. Projections of migrant workers to 2012 are not available from either the Labour Force Survey (LFS) nor the National Population Projections.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas for the following reasons:-

The LFS sample covers people living in private households, those in national health service (NHS) accommodation, and students living in halls of residence who have a UK-resident parent. Students living in halls of residence who do not have a UK-resident parent are not covered by the sample.

The LFS does not cover people living in other types of communal establishment (such as hostels, hotels, boarding houses, or mobile home sites).

Individuals living at sampled addresses are generally included in the survey only if they regard the address as their main residence. Those who have been living at the address for less than six months are not eligible to take part in the survey.

The survey results are weighted to estimates of the 'usually resident' UK population living in private households, NHS accommodation and student halls of residence. The population figures cover long-term international migrants (people who change their country of usual residence for 12 months or more). They do not include people moving to the UK for less than 12 months, nor do they exclude from the usually resident population people moving out of the UK for less than 12 months.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline LFS series.

Estimates are taken from the LFS. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of people in employment of working age[1] who were born abroad 1997-2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands

Three months ending June each year	*All persons[2]*	*Born in UK*	*Born abroad*
1997	25,544	23,638	1,904
1999	26,060	24,056	2,003
2001	26,607	24,431	2,169

Number of people in employment of working age[1] who were born abroad 1997-2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands

Three months ending June each year	*All persons[2]*	*Born in UK*	*Born abroad*
2002	26,735	24,426	2,305
2003	26,935	24,473	2,460
2004	27,015	24,471	2,544
2005	27,136	24,444	2,687
2006	27,187	24,177	3,009
2007	27,226	23,948	3,269

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Includes those who did not state their country of birth.

Notes:
It should be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS:
-excludes those who have not been resident in the UK
-excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
-excludes people in most other types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)
-is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for twelve months or more
-microdata is only grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring which are significantly lower that the latest population estimates.
Comparable data not available for 1998 and 2000.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Population

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the size of the likely UK population in each year until 2050; what it was in each of the last seven years; and if he will make a statement. [158572]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding the estimated population for each year until 2050 and the population for each of the previous seven years. (158572)

The attached table shows the total population for 1999 to 2050, for the United Kingdom. The latest available population estimates relate to 2006. The latest population projections are 2004-based. New 2006-based national population projections will be published on 23 October 2007.

Total population United Kingdom

Year	*Million*
Population estimates	
1999	58.7
2000	58.9
2001	59.1
2002	59.3
2003	59.6
2004	59.8
2005	60.2
2006	60.6
Population projections	
2007	60.8
2008	61.1
2009	61.4
2010	61.6
2011	61.9
2012	62.2
2013	62.4
2014	62.7
2015	63.0
2016	63.3
2017	63.6
2018	63.9
2019	64.2
2020	64.4
2021	64.7
2022	65.0
2023	65.3
2024	65.5
2025	65.8
2026	66.0
2027	66.2
2028	66.4
2029	66.6
2030	66.8
2031	67.0
2032	67.2
2033	67.3
2034	67.5
2035	67.6
2036	67.8
2037	67.9
2038	68.0
2039	68.1
2040	68.2
2041	68.4
2042	68.5
2043	68.6
2044	68.7
2045	68.8
2046	68.8
2047	68.9
2048	69.0
2049	69.1
2050	69.2

Source:
Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates; Government Actuary's Department 2004-based national population projections

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the proportion of the UK population which was born abroad in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2006; and what he expects it to be in (i) 2010, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2030, (iv) 2040 and (v) 2050. [158573]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Mike Hughes, dated 19 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the proportion of the UK population which was born abroad in (a) 2000 and (b) 2006; and what it is expected to be in (i) 2020, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2030, (iv) 2040 and (v) 2050. I am replying in her absence. (158573)

Based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the proportion of the UK population that was foreign born in 2000 was 7.6%. The equivalent proportion in 2006 was 10.0%.

There are no official projections of the proportion of the UK population that is foreign born.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is designed to capture all people in the UK living in a private household or NHS accommodation. Some UK residents are not captured by the LFS including students living in halls of residence who do not have a UK-resident parent, and people living in other types of communal establishment (such as hostels, hotels, boarding houses, or mobile home sites). These factors may contribute to the LFS giving a slight underestimate of the foreign born population as a proportion of the total UK population.

As with any sample survey, LFS estimates are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Taxation: Bingo

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to meet representatives of the Bingo Association to discuss the taxation regime which applies to its members; [158574]

(2) for what reason bingo operators have to pay both value added tax and gross profits tax; [158575]

(3) if he will commission a review of the taxation regime applying to the bingo industry. [158576]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and decisions about gambling taxation are made at Budget alongside all tax and spending decisions. The Government take all relevant factors into consideration when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for gambling taxes.

As part of the normal Budget process Ministers and officials have been in periodic contact with representatives of the bingo industry and will continue to meet them as part of the normal Budget process.

Teenage Pregnancy: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many conceptions among girls under 18 years old occurred in each London constituency in 2005. [158989]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many conceptions among girls under 18 years old occurred in each London constituency in 2005. (158989)

Conception figures for girls aged under 18 are routinely published by local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by Parliamentary Constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information, due to small differences between the Parliamentary Constituency and local authority boundaries.

The number and rate of conceptions to girls aged under 18 in each London Borough for 2005 are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Conceptions to girls aged under 18: Numbers and rates by area of usual residence. London boroughs, 2005[1]

London borough	*Number*	*Rate*[2]
Camden	124	40
Hackney and City of London	226	56
Hammersmith and Fulham	91	37
Haringey	246	63
Islington	156	56
Kensington and Chelsea	68	28
Lambeth	319	80
Lewisham	316	70
Newham	241	46
Southwark	275	68
Tower Hamlets	169	43
Wandsworth	155	49
Westminster City of	62	22
Barking and Dagenham	191	64
Barnet	167	29
Bexley	164	36
Brent	223	44
Bromley	203	36
Croydon	365	54
Ealing	186	36
Enfield	246	46
Greenwich	259	63
Harrow	127	30
Havering	150	33
Hillingdon	218	44
Hounslow	166	43
Kingston upon Thames	70	27
Merton	104	33
Redbridge	164	33
Richmond upon Thames	57	20
Sutton	109	31
Waltham Forest	192	48

[1] Figures for 2005 are provisional.
[2] Rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17.
Note:
To preserve confidentiality, counts for the City of London have been combined with those for Hackney LB.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Defence Export Services Organisation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consultations were undertaken before the decision was made to move the Defence Export Services Organisation into UK Trade and Investment. [156170]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2172W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

Olympic Games: Greater London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she expects the Olympic Delivery Authority's budget to be announced. [157732]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: On 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450, I announced an Olympic Delivery Authority budget of £.3 billion (net of tax). This formed part of the overall funding provision for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games of £9.325 billion.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Amnesty International: Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received from Amnesty International on abortion-related issues; and if he will make a statement. [158365]

Mr. Malik: I have received no recent representations from Amnesty International on abortion-related issues.

DFID believes that no woman should die or suffer because of unsafe abortion. Abortion should not be promoted as a form of family planning. But if women seek abortion through failure of contraception or lack of control over the circumstances in which they become pregnant, abortion should be available, safe and linked to post-abortion care, including contraception and HIV prevention services. This is in line with the consensus agreed at the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994.

Sexual and reproductive health is an essential element of good health and human development. More progress is needed on sexual and reproductive health to meet many of the millennium development goals, particularly those concerned with child and maternal health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases, gender equality and achieving universal primary education.

Departments: Marie Stopes International Conference

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the Ministers from his Department who will be *(a)* attending and *(b)* speaking at the Marie Stopes International Conference being held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on 23 to 24 October; whether his Department will be contributing (i) direct funding, (ii) informal support and (iii) personnel; whether there are restrictions on the use of these contributions; whether officials from his Department will (1) attend and (2) participate; if he will place in the Library material produced for the conference by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [158371]

Mr. Malik: DFID officials will be participating in the Marie Stopes international global safe abortion conference. However no DFID Ministers will be attending or speaking at the conference. DFID is not providing funding, informal support or producing any material for the Conference.

DFID believes that no woman should die or suffer because of unsafe abortion. Abortion should not be promoted as a form of family planning. But if women seek abortion through failure of contraception or lack of control over the circumstances in which they become pregnant, abortion should be available, safe and linked to post-abortion care, including contraception and HIV prevention services. This is in line with the consensus agreed at the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994.

Sexual and reproductive health is an essential element of good health and human development. More progress is needed on sexual and reproductive health to meet many of the millennium development goals, particularly those concerned with child and maternal health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases, gender equality and achieving universal primary education.

Developing Countries: Health Education

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the role of sexual and reproductive health education in achieving the sixth millennium development goal, of combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. [157960]

Mr. Malik: Education, including sexual and reproductive health education, is one of the most significant factors in preventing the spread of HIV in the next generation. In Swaziland, two-thirds of teenage girls in school are free from HIV, while two-thirds of girls out of school have HIV. Girls, boys and adults with more education are more likely to have knowledge of key prevention techniques, including condoms to help prevent HIV infection and insecticide impregnated bed nets to prevent malaria infection, and more able to persuade their partners, and in the case of bed nets, families, to use them.

DFID has funded two major research programmes that included assessing the impact of sexual and reproductive health education. These are the 'Safe passages to adulthood' programme at Southampton university (with a £2 million grant) and the Transitions to Adulthood' programme, run by then Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) and the Population Council (with a £5 million DFID grant). Early AGI findings from research in four developing countries (Burkina Faso, Malawi, Ghana and Uganda) demonstrate that the impact of sex education varies with the country and cultural context, as well as with methods of teaching used. In Uganda, for example, there was 8.5 times the use of condoms among those that had sex education, compared to those that did not. However, this finding was not replicated in all contexts. 40 per cent. of women who had been given a practical demonstration on how to use a condom reported using one at their last sexual encounter, whereas only 30 per cent. who had not received the demonstration reported using a condom.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of sexual and reproductive health education in developing countries. [157961]

Mr. Malik: DFID has funded two major research programmes that included assessing the impact of sexual and reproductive health education. These are the 'Safe passages to adulthood' programme at Southampton university (with a £2 million grant) and the Transitions to Adulthood' programme, run by then Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) and the Population Council (with a £5 million DFID grant). Early AGI findings from research in four developing countries (Burkina Faso, Malawi, Ghana and Uganda) demonstrate that the impact of sex education varies with the country and cultural context, as well as with methods of teaching used. In Uganda, for example, there was 8.5 times the use of condoms among those that had sex education, compared to those that did not. However, this finding was not replicated in all contexts. 40 per cent. of women who had been given a practical demonstration on how to use a condom reported using one at their last sexual encounter, whereas only 30 per cent. who had not received the demonstration reported using a condom.

A special issue of the African Journal of Reproductive Health, 'Protecting the next generation', providing evidence from the AGI work will be published later this year.

Education, including sexual and reproductive health education, is one of the most significant factors in preventing the spread of HIV in the next generation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Domestic Wastes: Broxbourne

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice or consultancy services *(a)* the Waste Resources Action Programme and *(b)* his Department has provided to Broxbourne council in relation to charging for domestic rubbish collection or charging for containers which will hold domestic rubbish. [158250]

Joan Ruddock: No advice or consultancy services have been provided by DEFRA on these issues. The Waste and Resources Action Programme is currently considering a request for help from Broxbourne council, received on 16 October, for help with communications to increase participation in recycling.

Environment Agency: Flood Control

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of changes in the funding of *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* British Waterways on the provision of flood defence. [155960]

Mr. Woolas: The changes in the funding applied to the Environment Agency's non-capital spend which funded items such as staff costs, operational spend and maintenance of defences. Funding for capital projects for new and improved defences to reduce risk was not cut and no current or planned capital improvement projects were delayed as a result. Funding to British Waterways was also reduced but these changes did not have a material impact on the provision of flood defence by British Waterways.

Fly Tipping: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of fly-tipping incidents were accounted for by household waste in each year for which the Flycapture database holds figures. [158093]

Joan Ruddock: Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, records the number of incidents of fly-tipping in which household waste is the predominate waste type. It does not record whether it is householders, businesses or illegal waste operators that actually fly-tip the waste.

The following table lists the percentage of fly-tips classified as household waste since Flycapture was introduced:

Flycapture year	*Percentage of household waste*
2004-05	55.4
2005-06	76.7
2006-07	77.0

2004-05 was the first year of the Flycapture database with 174 (49 per cent.) of local authorities submitting the required 12 monthly returns. This rose to 313 (88 per cent.) in 2005-06 and 323 (91 per cent.) in 2006-07.

White Fish: Conservation

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the conservation of sea bass stocks. [159331]

Jonathan Shaw: Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) suggests that the bass stock is fished sustainably.

Current European Union legislation protects sea bass by specifying a minimum landing size (MLS) of 36 centimetres, below which bass cannot be landed, and corresponding mesh sizes to be used for both fixed and trawl gear when bass is targeted. Some Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) have introduced a higher MLS of 37.5 centimetres which applies within the relevant district. The UK has also designated 37 specified areas in which bass fishing from a boat is prohibited.

I am currently considering the evidence for increasing the MLS for bass in England, and will make an announcement shortly.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158939]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not directly employ any staff; all staff are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, as necessary. The Office does not hold personnel records that would allow age to be determined.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158902]

David Cairns: Scotland Office hospitality expenditure for the last financial year is detailed as follows:

Financial year	*Hospitality expenditure (£)*
2006-07	23,411

All expenditure, including that on hospitality, has been incurred in accordance with the principles of Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157916]

David Cairns: None.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* opinion polling and *(b)* market research in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [154472]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office spent £17,000 in 2006-07 on market research.

Elections

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had since the Scottish parliamentary elections in May 2007 with returning officers on auto-adjudication during the counting. [158773]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report* column 7W.

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information his Department provided to the inquiry led by Ron Gould into the conduct of Scottish elections in May 2007 on auto-adjudication without human supervision; and if he will make a statement. [158774]

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information his Department has provided to the inquiry led by Ron Gould into the conduct of the Scottish elections in May 2007 on automatic adjudication of ballot papers without human supervision. [159067]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has provided information to the Gould inquiry about electronic counting which includes reference to user agreements. User agreements, where auto-adjudication is specified, were signed by each returning officer, who have statutory responsibility for the adjudication of ballot papers. The Scotland Office did not take any decisions on the inclusion of auto-adjudication and passed no specific information about it to the inquiry.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cotswold Heritage Academy: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support he has made available to the Cotswold Heritage Academy; and if he will make a statement. [159361]

Margaret Hodge: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1591, by my hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy).

Creative Economy White Paper

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the Creative Economy White Paper. [158206]

Margaret Hodge: A Green Paper on the Creative Economy is expected to be published in the near future.

Culture: Expenditure

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the culture part of its responsibilities in each year since 1995-96 at constant 2007-08 prices. [156711]

Margaret Hodge: The table shows how much the Department for Culture, Media and Sport spent on the Culture part of its responsibilities, from 1995-06 to 2006-07 at 2007-08 prices.

	£
1995-96	1102.2
1996-07	962.0
1997-08	918.5
1998-09	809.6
1999-2000	860.7
2000-01	870.4
2001-02	888.7
2002-03	956.4
2003-04	[1]1562.1
2004-05	1036.8
2005-06	1091.1
2006-07	1142.5

[1]2003-04 figures increased due to certain NDPBs joining the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS).

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [157004]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158952]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Using the current state retirement age of 65 for men and 60 for women, in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) there are nine (1.76 per cent.) employees above state retirement age. The Royal Parks Agency has one (1 per cent.) employee above state retirement age. DCMS does not hold centrally the information you have requested for the non-departmental public bodies funded by the department and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158931]

Margaret Hodge: Expenditure on official hospitality is made in accordance with principles of government accounting, Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety as well as the Department's internal guidance on hospitality. The Department's expenditure on hospitality in the last 12 months (to September 2007) was £74,979.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153269]

Margaret Hodge: The departmental expenditure on first class train tickets ordered via the Department's contracted travel agent was £81,157 in the last financial year. This amount excludes some travel booked directly which can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Listed Buildings

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many listed buildings were *(a)* substantially damaged and *(b)* destroyed in each year since 1997-98. [157220]

Margaret Hodge: Neither DCMS nor English Heritage collects data on how many listed buildings have been substantially damaged or destroyed. The management and care of listed buildings through the consent regime lies in the main with local authorities.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what obligations there are on the owners of listed buildings to ensure they are fully insured. [157221]

Margaret Hodge: There are no specific legal obligations on the owners of listed buildings to ensure they are fully insured. Guidance for owners is available in the joint English Heritage/Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors publication "Insuring your historic building".

Local Government Finance: Arts

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant money has been awarded to each county council in England for arts projects in the last five years. [157330]

Margaret Hodge: This information is shown in the table

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Durham	39,752	39,752	39,752	39,752	39,752
Cumbria	37,609	38,552	39,516	40,700	41,900
Kent	80,000	82,000	85,000	160,000	200,000
Derbyshire	12,306	12,615	30,430	48,040	49,359
Leicestershire	12,306	28,400	51,109	48,041	49,361
Lincolnshire	43,716	81,561	83,600	99,276	71,179
Northamptonshire	36,706	37,625	38,565	29,091	21,771
Nottinghamshire	56,936	74,787	75,830	77,366	79,492

Sports: Betting

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings his Department has had with representatives from sporting national governing bodies on betting in sport in the last three years; and on what dates these meetings took place. [158830]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* I met national sports governing bodies primarily to discuss betting on sports on the following dates:

27 February 2007—Premier League

29 March 2007—England and Wales Cricket Board

20 April 2007—Professional Footballers Association

There were round table meetings between my Department and the governing bodies of five sports (football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and tennis) on 18 April 2006, 6 November 2006 and 15 June 2007, at which the issue of betting on sport was also raised.

In addition, there have been numerous meetings between Ministers or officials of my Department and sports where sports betting was one item on a larger agenda.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings his Department has had with representatives of the betting industry on betting in sport in the last three years; and on what dates such meetings took place. [158831]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* I met the chief executive of Ladbrokes to discuss sports betting on 28 March 2007, and met representatives of the Association of British Bookmakers for the same reason on 13 June 2007.

In addition, there have been numerous meetings between Ministers or officials of my Department and betting organisations where sports betting was one item on a larger agenda.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have had with representatives of the tourism industry in the last six months. [155756]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS Ministers and officials have held a full programme of meetings with the tourism industry since April 2007, reflecting the importance of the sector within the Department.

This has included meetings with individual companies and representative bodies in the private sector; and with VisitBritain, the Regional Development Agencies, and other representatives of the public sector in tourism.

With my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, I have also twice met representatives of the sector in the Tourism Industry Emergency Response Group.

VisitBritain: Cooperation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to review the relationship between VisitBritain and Enjoy England; and if he will make a statement. [157971]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Changes have recently been made to the relationship between the England Marketing Advisory Board and VisitBritain.

The board, which advises VisitBritain on its domestic marketing work has been re-named VisitEngland. In future, it will take a more active role in the tourism marketing of England, and will be responsible for VisitBritain's domestic remit. The VisitEngland Board will also be made more representative of the domestic tourism sector.

These changes have been fully discussed with the tourism industry, and the public sector organisations which support it, through bodies coming together and working together in a series of seminars organised by the Partners for England. VisitEngland will now work with Partners for England to re-invigorate, as well as better co-ordinate, English public sector tourism support.

The changes have the full support of DCMS, as I was very pleased to demonstrate by attending the VisitEngland launch event in York on 10 October.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefits: Pensioners

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of council tax benefit amongst pensioners was in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [158181]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up for 1996-97 can be found in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up in 1997-98". Estimates of take-up in 2005-06, the most recent year for which figures are available, can be found in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up in 2005-06". Copies of these reports are available in the Library.

Methodological changes introduced since 1997-98 were not applied to estimates for 1996-97, so any changes over time should be treated with caution.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157869]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Work and Pensions currently operates 21 websites. On 1 January 2005, the Department operated 25 websites.

Production, management and maintenance of DWP websites is carried out by the Department's own in-house E-Communications team. It is not possible to quantify internal costs for each site.

Contracted and quantifiable costs have been included where possible—these include payments to suppliers for services such as research, user testing and site builds, and payment to interim personnel.

Table A lists those websites operated by Department for Work and Pensions where the Department is responsible for the content.

Table A

£

	Contracted and quantifiable costs				
Website name and address	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Department for Work and Pensions—www.dwp.gov.uk	0	0	101,467	1,954	8,116
Jobcentre Plus—www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk	—	—	—	17,183,000	—
The Pension Service—www.thepensionservice.gov.uk	188,093	186,950	0	182,000	0
Child Support Agency—www.csa.gov.uk	—	—	0	31,000	0
Age Positive—www.agepositive.gov.uk	—	—	0	—	0
Benefit Fraud Inspectorate—www.bfi.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	0
Office for Disability Issues—www.officefordisability.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	46,000
European Social Fund—www.esf.gov.uk	—	—	0	41,000	0

Table A

£

Website name and address	*Contracted and quantifiable costs*				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Rent Service—www.therentservice.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	188,093	186,950	101,467	17,438,954	54,116

— = Figures are not available.

Note:

The figure for the financial year 2005/06 includes the cost of hosting, supporting, maintaining and developing the Jobcentre Plus website and its transactional services. It would incur disproportionate cost to obtain figures for previous financial years and more complete information for 2006-07.

Table B lists those websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions where the Department is not responsible for the content.

Table B

£

Website name and address	*Contracted and quantifiable costs*				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Disability Employment Advisory Committee—www.deac.org.uk	—	—	—	—	0
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board—www.dlaab.org.uk	—	—	—	—	0
Employer Task Force—www.employertaskforce.org.uk	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	0
Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force—www.emetaskforce.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	0
Images of Disability—www.imagesofdisability.gov.uk	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	0
Independent Case Examiner—www.ind-case-exam.org.uk	—	—	—	—	0
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council—www.iiac.org.uk	—	—	—	—	0
National Employment Panel—www.nationalemploymentpanel.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	0
Pensions At Work—www.pensionsatwork.gov.uk	n/a	n/a	—	—	0
Pensions Commission—www.pensionscommission.org.uk	n/a	—	—	—	0
Fair Cities—www.faircities.net	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Social Security Advisory Committee—www.ssac.org.uk	—	—	—	—	0
Total	—	—	—	—	0

— = Figures are not available

n/a = Site yet to be launched.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1st January 2007. [157870]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The visitor statistics for the most popular and least popular websites run by the Department for Work and Pensions during the period 1 January to 31 August 2007 are as follows:

Website		*Visitors*	*Unique visitors*
(a) Jobcentre Plus	www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk	80,014,136	[1]35,295,624
			[2]19,337,955
(b) Disability Employment Advisory Committee	www.deac.org.uk	8,509	2,246

[1] By IP address

[2] By page tagging

Notes:

1. Hits—This statistic is not used because it is not a reliable measure of how many pages are being looked at. It does not provide information about how many people visit the site.
2. Visits—Number of times a visitor or visitors came to the site. Each visit is recorded separately for every visit more than 30 minutes apart.
3. Unique visitors—Individuals who visited the site during the report period. If someone visits more than once, they are counted only the first time they visit. For Jobcentre Plus, unique visitors are counted in two different ways, and both measures are included here for consistency with other PQs.

Employment: EC Action

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the provisions of Article 5 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union regarding employment and the provision that the Union shall take measures to ensure co-ordination of the employment policies of the member states, in particular by defining guidelines for these policies; whether there will be shared competence with the European Union as a result of these provisions; and if he will make a statement on the legal consequences of this provision and the other provisions of the Treaty for employment in the UK. [158011]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union does not change the existing provisions relating to the co-ordination of employment policies, currently set out in the Employment Title (VIII) of the Treaty establishing the EU under Articles 125-130. The employment provision in Article five relates to the Lisbon Strategy for Jobs and Growth, whereby all member states agree non-binding guidelines on employment and report annually on their main employment policies that relate to the Guidelines. This is principally to generate exchange of good practice on reforms that will help increase employment across the EU. This process is also supported by the European Social Fund.

The UK strategy of employment opportunity for all is seen as a good model and delivers the common EU outcomes necessary for more and better jobs. The UK is one of only four member states to have attained and surpassed the Lisbon employment rate target of 70 per cent.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of people ceasing to claim jobseeker's allowance had *(a)* moved immediately onto other benefits and *(b)* returned to (i) jobseeker's allowance and (ii) other benefits (A) up to six months, (B) between six and 12 months and (C) more than 12 months after leaving benefit in each year since 1992. [159580]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

National Insurance: Foreign Workers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign nationals in the Forest of Dean district were issued with national insurance numbers in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the preceding four years. [158047]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2004. The available information is in the following table.

Registrations for national insurance numbers by foreign nationals in the Forest of Dean district council area

Year of registration	Number of registrations
2004-05	140
2005-06	240
2006-07	250

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.

Source:
100 per cent. sample at 25 June 2005, 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign nationals in the Milton Keynes unitary authority were issued with national insurance numbers in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the preceding four years. [159207]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2004. The available information is in the following table.

National insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK Nationals in Milton Keynes local authority

Year of registration	Registrations
2004-05	2,330
2005-06	2,950
2006-07	3,220

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Numbers are based on 100 per cent. data from the national insurance recording system (NIRS).
4. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
5. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.

Source:
100 per cent sample at 25 June 2005, 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the national insurance recording system

Pension Credit: Take Up

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who are entitled to pension credit but do not claim it; what steps he is taking to reduce that number; and if he will make a statement. [157341]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Latest estimates of the number of pensioners eligible for but not claiming pension credit can be found in "Pension Credit Estimates of Take-Up in 2005/2006". A copy of the report is available in the Library.

The Pension Service is undertaking a wide range of steps to encourage eligible pensioners to claim pension credit. In 2006-07 around 2.8 million direct mailings were issued to customers who may have an entitlement to pension credit.

The Pension Service Local Service offers face-to-face visits to potentially eligible and vulnerable pensioners during which full benefit entitlement checks are carried out. Nearly one million home visits were conducted during 2006-07.

The Pension Service Local Service is continuing to work closely with local partners (including local authorities and voluntary organisations such as Help the Aged and Age Concern) on pension credit take-up activity. There are now 184 operational Joint Working Partnerships enabling the Pension Service Local Service, local authorities and the voluntary sector to provide a single point of access to social care and benefit entitlement.

In addition, we have modernised our service and encourage take up by enabling new customers who call to claim their state pension, to also apply for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit in a single telephone call if appropriate.

Pension Service: Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the staff at the Pensions Service are entitled to a final salary pension scheme. [157174]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: 96 per cent. of staff in the Pension Service are members of the Civil Service Pension Scheme which is a final salary pension scheme.

Pensions: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Chorley constituency are in receipt of pension credit. [158760]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at May 2007 4,200 households (5,180 individuals) in the Chorley constituency were receiving pension credit.

Notes:

1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures which are taken from the GMS scan at 1 June 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory and are therefore based on the 2005 parliamentary boundaries.

4. Households are those people who claim Pension Credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) Pension Credit scan taken as at 1 June 2007.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the projected cost of the Financial Assistance Scheme in each of the next 30 years and *(b)* the additional funding required to meet his commitment on match-funding following the publication of the interim Young report. [152561]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is as follows.

(a) The following table shows the estimated total annual cash cost over the next 30 years of providing FAS at the level announced by the Chancellor on 21 March 2007.

	Cash cost (£ million)
2008-09	40
2009-10	53
2010-11	60
2011-12	64
2012-13	68
2013-14	78
2014-15	89
2015-16	102
2016-17	113
2017-18	122
2018-19	130
2019-20	135
2020-21	145
2021-22	159
2022-23	168
2023-24	176
2024-25	185
2025-26	195
2026-27	203
2027-28	214
2028-29	223
2029-30	228
2030-31	234
2031-32	238
2032-33	240
2033-34	241
2034-35	241
2035-36	240
2036-37	238
2037-38	234

Note:
Costs are rounded to the nearest £1 million and are expressed in 2006-07 prices

(b) The Young review will identify what additional value can be attained from the assets in FAS pension funds. The Government will set out the details of its approach to match funding once the Young review has been published.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the maximum percentage payment under the Financial Assistance scheme is of the pension lost; and whether the payment is dependent upon the level of contributions made. [157364]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Payments from the Financial Assistance scheme (FAS) reflect 80 per cent. of the core pension an individual could have expected to receive from their pension scheme. Payments are currently subject to a cap of £12,000 a year and as previously announced we are raising the cap to £26,000 a year.

The Young Review of Pension scheme assets is expected to report back in November, and we have already committed to match the additional value it identifies with the goal of moving towards 90 per cent. of expected core pension for all recipients (subject to the cap).

The expected core pension will reflect contributions made to the pension scheme by the sponsoring employer and the scheme member.

Social Security Benefits

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will commission research into rates of benefit take-up, broken down by *(a)* gender and *(b)* type of benefit; and if he will make a statement. [159072]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the take-up of the main income-related benefits—pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and income-based jobseeker's allowance—are available in the DWP publication series entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up". Copies of the latest

publication, which describes patterns in take-up between 1997-98 and 2005-06, plus past reports, can be found in the Library.

Where sample sizes and data sources allow, take-up statistics are broken down to enable comparisons by gender. In practice, we can provide analysis by gender only for income support, pension credit and income-based jobseeker's allowance. For council tax benefit and housing benefit, a gender breakdown of take-up rates is not possible.

Information on the take-up of other DWP administered benefits is not available.

Social Security: Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes have been made since May 1997 to the mortgage value threshold at which income support will stop paying mortgage interest, for mortgages taken out after October 1995. [158182]

Mr. Plaskitt: There have been no changes to the upper capital limit for help towards mortgage interest since 10 April 1995, although it is kept under review.

Generally help with interest payments is limited to the interest on the first £100,000 of outstanding loan capital for customers in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and state pension credit.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Chernobyl: Children

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department and *(b)* others on assisting the travel of Chernobyl-affected children to the UK for rest and recuperation; what effect the operation of biometric visas will have on the case of such travel; and if he will make a statement. [158550]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held any recent discussions with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on this matter, but officials propose to hold a stakeholder meeting in the very near future at which these issues will be raised.

The Government recognise the value and benefit of allowing children who have been affected by Chernobyl to visit the UK for respite care. This is an important programme and we will continue to support the charitable work both in the UK and Belarus that facilitates these visits. In consultation with the charities we are actively looking for ways to minimise any difficulties that the introduction of biometrics might create. We had sought to establish a seasonal visa application centre (VAC) in Gomel Oblast through our commercial partner, Visa Facilitation Services (VFS). This would have provided a more convenient visa application point and a shorter journey for some of those children. Unfortunately, we have not been able to secure permission from the Belarus Government to allow our commercial partner to operate. Those living in southern Belarus might find it easier to travel to the VAC in Kiev, Ukraine to lodge their applications. Our embassy in Kiev will make the necessary arrangements to cater for individuals or groups.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from *(a)* the Government of Belarus, *(b)* UK charities and *(c)* others on the entry into the UK of Chernobyl-affected children; and if he will make a statement. [158552]

Dr. Howells: I have received representations from the ambassador of Belarus, the Chernobyl Children's Project, the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline and several hon. Members. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him today (UIN 158550).

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Minister approved the use of the section 36 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 referred to in the letter of 11 October from his Department to the hon. Member for Billericay. [159578]

Dr. Howells: The opinion of a qualified person (in the case of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) this is a Minister) has not yet been sought and the section 36 exemption has not yet been engaged. The FCO will write to the hon. Member urgently clarifying its position in accordance with section 17(1) of the Act.

Entry Clearances

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration has been given to the return of travel documents to visa applicants pending decisions in long-running cases. [158964]

Dr. Howells: The relevant visa section will retain the applicant's travel documents until a decision has been made, as they are required to process the application. The applicant may withdraw their application at any time if they wish to have their travel documents returned.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what system is in place to inform visa applicants of the progress of their applications. [158965]

Dr. Howells: Applicants are not routinely informed of the progress of their application, except in those settlement cases where a Home Office referral is necessary; in these cases the applicant should receive a letter informing them of the revised timescale.

If an applicant wishes to check the progress of their application they may do so by using the call centre or online service in countries where a commercial partner has been engaged. Where there is no commercial partner they may contact the visa section, in the country from which they are applying, using the contact details advertised on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website.

Applicants are advised to check the website of the visa section of the country from which they wish to apply for the correct procedure.

The FCO website address is:

www.fco.gov.uk.

Libyan Arab Republic: Overseas Trade

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions on Anglo-Libyan trade with the British Council. [159158]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to hold such discussions with the British Council, which does not have responsibility for our trade relations with Libya.

The British Council's work in Libya focuses on helping to develop the Libyan education system and promoting English language skills. It does this through placing English language teachers in Libyan institutions and at the British Council's own teaching centre in Tripoli. My noble Friend the right hon. Lord Kinnock opened the new centre in September 2006. The British Council employs 32 teachers in Libya. The Council does have links with Libyan industry through its skills-development and language training programmes.

The Government are committed to building strong trade relations with Libya through the combined work of UK Trade and Investment and our embassy in Tripoli. In addition, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in close contact with relevant trade and business organisations.

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letters of *(a)* 25 May 2007, *(b)* 25 July 2007 and *(c)* 4 September 2007 from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare in relation to his constituent Mr. Ivor Chivers and his company Eco Solutions. [159073]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The hon. Member's letter of 25 May was received in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on 29 May. The letter dealt with a subject on which the FCO does not lead and was therefore transferred to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR), previously the Department of Trade and Industry, on 30 May. I can confirm that DBERR are currently dealing with this letter and have also received the two follow-up letters. The official in DBERR dealing with the hon. Member's original letter can be contacted on 020 7215 6638.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department and the British high commission visa section in Islamabad will reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letter of 26 June 2007 and further faxes of 26 July 2007 and 22 August 2007 on his constituent Mr Zahida Mubarik. [158739]

Dr. Howells: The visa section of our high commission in Islamabad sent an e-mail to UKvisas regarding Ms Mubarik's application on 8 August 2007. Due to an administrative error both the visa section in Islamabad and UKvisas assumed that the other would reply to the hon. Member's representations. I apologise on behalf of UKvisas for the subsequent delay. You will receive a full written reply by the end of next week.

The information and evidence submitted with Ms Mubarik's appeal was reviewed by an entry clearance manager (ECM) on 27 September. However, despite new evidence being submitted, the decision to refuse Ms Mubarik's entry clearance was upheld. The ECM's explanatory statement has now been dispatched to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in preparation for Ms Mubarik's appeal hearing.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he is having with his Saudi counterpart on Arab League proposals for peace in the middle east/Palestine. [159168]

Dr. Howells: We very much welcome the work by the Arab League to take forward the Arab peace initiative. The international community has a key role to play in moving forward the peace process. I discussed the middle east peace process with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bin Nawaf Al-Saud, the Saudi Arabia ambassador on 3 October. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary looks forward to discussing the Arab peace initiative further during the Saudi state visit later this month.

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia; and if he will make a statement. [158030]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia. We regularly discuss our concerns with the Saudi authorities at all levels. Human rights are also raised on our behalf by the EU, which has decided to keep the details of these discussions confidential.

We are committed to encouraging Saudi Arabia to improve its human rights record and adhere to international human rights standards. The hon. Member may also welcome the recent increase in the activities by the National Society on Human Rights (NSHR). In May 2007 the NSHR published its first annual report on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia, since it was established in 2004. This is a significant step forward.

In addition on 1 October, a royal decree approved the new Judiciary Law and the Court of Grievances Law. The decree establishes a Supreme Court and an Appeal Court. It also establishes five specialised courts: General, Criminal, Labour, Commercial and Civil. The Grievance Bureau is replaced by a new three-tier system, which also includes Appeal and Supreme Courts. We welcome this announcement.

Switzerland: Asylum

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his counterparts on the Security Council the relocation of UN offices away from Geneva until and unless the Swiss Government has a more enlightened policy on immigration and asylum. [159330]

Dr. Howells: The Government have no plans to discuss this in the UN Security Council. This is not Security Council business and is an issue for the Swiss Government.

Tourists: Injuries

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of injuries sustained by UK citizens travelling outside the European economic area in each of the last five years, broken down by type of injury. [158162]

Dr. Howells: We do not collect data on the types of injury suffered by UK citizens when travelling overseas.

We do hold figures where our posts overseas are informed of a British national being hospitalised, although this will include both cases of illness and injury.

Over the last five years, the number of cases outside the European Economic area where our posts have been informed of the hospitalisation of a British national, are as follows:

	Cases
2002-03	1,236
2003-04	1,055
2004-05	1,364
2005-06	1,268
2006-07	1,500

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate *(a)* the number of enquiries which his Department receives annually from UK citizens about injuries sustained outside the European Economic Area, *(b)* the number of these enquiries which are about compensation payments from travel insurance and *(c)* the number of enquiries that complain about non-payment of compensation due to an injury type that is not covered by standard travel insurance policies. [158163]

Dr. Howells: During 2006-07 we estimate that our posts overseas received 2,888,996 inquiries, covering all aspects of consular work. Of these 1,941,454 enquiries were received by posts outside the European economic area. We do not keep a statistical breakdown by subject matter.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent alcohol abuse in England. [159459]

Ann Keen: The Government continues to show a sustained determination to tackle the harms caused by alcohol misuse.

The "Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England", which was published in 2004, was the first cross-Government strategy to prevent any further increase in alcohol-related harms in England. The 2004 Strategy has been extremely successful. It has put in place the mechanisms needed to deliver the Government's objective of reducing alcohol-related harms and has made considerable progress across a range of issues—new police and licensing powers, the new voluntary alcohol labelling scheme and revised advice to women about alcohol and pregnancy, effective and popular advertising campaigns (e.g. 'Know Your Limits', 'Think!'), creation of the Drinkaware Trust and improving alcohol treatment services, for example, the publication of suite of guidance materials, such as the "Programme of Improvement and Models of Care for Alcohol Misuse".

We are already beginning to see the benefits of this: reductions in crime and city centre violence and early signs of an end to the continued increase in levels of alcohol consumption. Nevertheless, the review of the 2004 Strategy, which the Government was committed to undertaking this year, identified more that the Government can and needs to do.

The Government's renewed alcohol strategy," Safe. Sensible. Social.—the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy", published in June, sets out the long-term objective, to minimise the health harms, violence and antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol, while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly.

The Government plans to achieve this by seeking to:

-ensure the laws and licensing powers we have introduced to tackle alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, protect young people and bear down on irresponsibly managed premises, are being used widely and effectively;

-sharpen our focus on the minority of drinkers who cause or experience the most harm to themselves, their communities and their families. These are:

-18-24 year old binge drinkers,

-young people under 18 who drink alcohol,

-Harmful drinkers; and

-To shape an environment which actively promotes sensible drinking, for example through a £10 million investment in a sustained information and communications campaign to challenge public tolerance of drunkenness and drinking that causes harm to health and to raise the public's knowledge of units of alcohol and ensure that everyone has the information they need to estimate how much they really do drink..

In addition, the Government are committed to commissioning an independent national review of evidence on the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm and, following public consultation, to consider the need for regulatory change in the future, if necessary. Reviews will also take place on the effectiveness of the alcohol industry's social responsibility standards in contributing to a reduction in alcohol harm, as well as on the effectiveness of the industry's social responsibility standards in contributing to a reduction in alcohol harm.

The Government have also announced in their Comprehensive Spending Review, published on 9 October, a Home Office public service agreement target to reduce drug and alcohol harm. This includes a new national indicator to measure change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-attributable conditions, the first ever national commitment to monitor how the national health service is tackling alcohol harms through both intervention and treatment, which will operate from April 2008.

The Government are determined that the steps that are set out in "Safe. Sensible. Social" will shape an environment which will minimise the health harms, violence and antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol, while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he expects *(a)* the NHS Breast Screening Programme to be extended to cover all women aged 47 to 73 years and *(b)* everyone with breast problems to be seen by a specialist within two weeks, following a referral by their GP; and if he will make a statement. [157259]

Ann Keen: Further details on these two announcements will be made in the Cancer Reform Strategy, which we hope to publish later this year.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the availability of breast cancer screening for those considered high risk in Hertfordshire. [157518]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold information centrally on specific clinics or services offered by individual trust or funded by individual primary care trusts (PCTs). The provision of services is a matter for agreement between trusts and their commissioning PCTs, in consultation with local stakeholders. This should take into consideration local needs and priorities while ensuring they meet core national standards for the delivery of health services.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline on familial breast cancer in May 2004, partially updated in October 2006. The clinical guideline relates to the classification and care of women at risk of familial breast cancer in primary, secondary and tertiary care. The guideline recommends that women at moderate familial risk of breast cancer or greater should receive annual mammography or magnetic resonance imaging surveillance.

NICE clinical guidelines are covered by the Department's developmental standards—standards which the national health service is expected to achieve over time. The Healthcare Commission has responsibility for assessing progress towards achieving these standards.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women had to wait longer than *(a)* two weeks, *(b)* one month and *(c)* four months to be screened for breast cancer after referral by a GP in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by London borough. [157630]

Ann Keen: This information is not held in the format requested. A table showing breast cancer waiting times for the whole of England has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits/2007/ql/can_1.html

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for a patient to be seen at a London Breast Screening Unit after referral by a GP. [157631]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

The national health service breast screening programme is operated from local breast screening units, who send invitations to eligible women directly. If abnormalities are found on a woman's mammogram, an appointment at the local assessment clinic is made automatically by the local breast screening unit. General practitioners are not an integral part of the programme, but are kept fully informed of their patients' progress through the programme by being copied into results letters.

Breast Cancer: West Yorkshire

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many eligible women are on waiting lists for breast screening in West Yorkshire; and how many of these have been waiting over three years for screening. [156378]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 668W.

Childbirth: Stockport

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born in NHS maternity units in Stockport primary care trust hospitals in each year since 1997. [158001]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Mike Hughes, dated 19 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question about how many babies were born in NHS maternity units in Stockport Primary Care Trust hospitals in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (158001)

Figures on live births in hospitals are available from birth registration information. The latest available figures by place of birth are for 2005.

Live births in Stepping Hill hospital, Stockport, 1997 to 2005

	Live births
1997	3,529
1998	3,445
1999	3,407
2000	3,232
2001	2,957
2002	2,951
2003	2,986
2004	3,239
2005	3,095

The table shows the figures requested for the calendar years 1997 to 2005, for Stepping Hill Hospital, the only NHS maternity unit in Stockport Primary Care Trust.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to improve specialist services for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis. [157526]

Ann Keen: We have no specific plans to improve specialist services for those living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Clostridium

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* infections and *(b)* deaths due to *Clostridium difficile* in (i) Gloucestershire hospitals NHS trust and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [159666]

Ann Keen: We introduced mandatory surveillance of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) in January 2004. The latest annual data were published in July 2007 and the number of CDI reports for patients aged 65 and over in Gloucestershire hospitals NHS foundation trust and in England are in the following table.

	Gloucestershire NHS foundation trust	*England*
January to December 2004	763	44,563
January to December 2005	1,073	51,829
January to December 2006	1,058	55,634

Source:
Health Protection Agency—provisional data

While some of the increase will be due to improved reporting, the national levels are too high and this is why we have announced a new indicator to reduce infections by 30 per cent. by March 2011.

Information on the number of deaths in individual national health service trusts is not available but the number of death certificates in England mentioning CDI is in the following table.

	Mentions of C. difficile	*Number of these where underlying cause of death is C. difficile*
2001	1,150	661
2002	1,338	709
2003	1,702	912
2004	2,155	1,187
2005	3,697	2,008

Source:
ONS Health Statistics Quarterly 33

Dental Health: Children

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* fillings and *(b)* extractions were carried out on children's teeth in each of the regions in each of the last three years. [158912]

Ann Keen: Data for the years 2005 and 2006 are available at strategic health authority level in annex D of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006".

The information in this report is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report is available in the Library and is also available:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The report has been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Under the new contractual arrangements, no comparable data are available.

Dental Services

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to improve dental services. [159460]

Ann Keen: The Government launched fundamental reforms to national health service dentistry in England in April 2006. Under the reforms local NHS now has the power to directly commission dental services. There is further to go but the reforms provide for the first time a stable foundation on which primary care trusts can build robust NHS dental services tailored to local needs. The Government are committed to expanding NHS dental services. Two new dental schools have been opened this year in England providing an additional 170 dental training places, a 25 per cent. increase in total training places.

The respective devolved administrations are responsible for the provision of NHS dental services in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Dental Services: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make a statement on the number of dentists accepting new NHS patients within the Chorley area; [158660]

(2) what steps he is taking to encourage that more dentists accept new NHS patients within the Chorley area. [158661]

Ann Keen: Information on dentists accepting new national health service patients is not collected centrally.

Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) is investing an additional £1.3 millions in NHS dentistry to help solve the issues around access. To attract new dentists to the area and to encourage existing local dentists to provide additional services, the PCT has advertised for dentists to submit tenders to provide the additional NHS dentist appointments.

It is anticipated that once the outcome of the tendering process is known in December dentists will agree start dates with the PCT and the increase in capacity will be available by the end of the year. Those patients that are on the dental access database will be contacted and asked if they wish to transfer to a dentist within their area.

Dental Services: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered NHS dentists there were in Shropshire in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [159169]

Ann Keen: The numbers of national health service dentists at primary care trust (PCT) (including Shropshire PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information is based on old contractual arrangements.

The report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers of NHS dentists at PCT (including Shropshire PCT) and SHA level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in table E1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

In both reports, no account is taken of the level of NHS service, if any, that each dentist provides.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157891]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the policy of the Department not to pay any penalty imposed under the Road Traffic Acts arising from traffic accidents or any other incidents where penalties are applied.

Individuals are required to be accountable for their own actions in this respect and the Department does not collate information on this subject.

Diabetes: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the availability of retinal screening for diabetes patients in *(a)* Royston, Hertfordshire and *(b)* Hertfordshire; [157510]

(2) whether retinal screening for diabetes patients in Hertfordshire met the required standards in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [157511]

Ann Keen: Officials from the Department had discussions with the East of England strategic health authority about retinal screening for diabetic patients recently. The two Hertfordshire primary care trusts (West Hertfordshire, East and North Hertfordshire) are working towards the national standards.

Diabetes: Sight Impaired

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of diabetes patients in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England went blind in the last year for which figures are available; what trends he expects in these numbers in the future; and if he will make a statement. [157517]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, according to the statistical publication, "Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People Year ending 31 March 2006", during the year ending March 2006, there were around 11,000 new registrations to the register of blind people, a fall of 17 per cent. compared to 2003. Some councils have reported that new computer systems and data cleansing has reduced the number of new registrations.

In Hertfordshire, during the year ending March 2006, 185 were added to the register of blind people.

Registration of blindness is voluntary. However, it is a pre-condition for the receipt of certain financial benefits. It is this factor which gives greater credibility to the 'Register of the Blind' than to the 'Register of the Partially Sighted' and to other disability registration records maintained by councils, where the voluntary principle also applies.

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent elder abuse. [159457]

Ann Keen: The Government regard abuse of vulnerable and older people as unacceptable in all its forms and is determined to root it out. We are addressing the issue in a variety of ways.

We set out standards for care and treatment for the national health service and social care services via the national service frameworks for older people and mental health and the White Paper, 'Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability', copies of which are available in the Library.

We introduced regulations and national minimum standards for care homes, domiciliary care agencies and adult placements. These are intended to ensure vulnerable and older people can live in a safe environment, where their rights and dignity are respected, staff are properly trained and care is of the requisite quality.

We have created independent regulators, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Healthcare Commission, and given them the powers they need to take action against poorly performing providers or where abuse occurs. Ultimately, they have the power to close services down.

We expect local authorities to play their part. 'No Secrets', published by the Department in 2000 provides a complete definition of abuse and a framework for councils to work with the police, the NHS and regulators to tackle abuse and prevent it from occurring. On June 14 this year, we also announced a review of the 'No Secrets' guidance. The case for legislation to protect vulnerable adults will be considered as part of the review.

Local authorities have been given specific responsibilities. Statutory guidance issued in May 2006 required them to ensure that directors of adult social services maintain a clear organisational and operational focus on safeguarding vulnerable adults and that relevant statutory requirements and other national standards are met, including Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) requirements. Local authorities must make sure the director of adult social services has the powers and resources necessary to encourage a culture of vigilance against the possibility of adult abuse.

We introduced the POVA scheme in July 2004, which requires staff who provide personal care to older people in their own homes or in care homes to be subject to statutory checks, including checks of their criminal record. The scheme, which operates as a work force ban, prevents dangerous or unscrupulous people from gaining access to older and vulnerable people in care homes or being cared for in their own homes.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005, which came into force on 1 October 2007, introduces a new criminal offence of ill treatment or wilful neglect of a person who lacks capacity.

The Government support the work of Action on Elder Abuse (AEA). AEA has been awarded a three-year Section 64 grant, totalling £360,000. This grant covers the three-year period from 2007 to 2009 and is to help fund central administrative costs.

We are introducing a new centralised vetting and barring scheme for people working with children and vulnerable people. This scheme, as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, will extend the coverage of the existing barring schemes and draw on wider sources of information to provide a more comprehensive and consistent measure of protection for vulnerable groups across a wide range of settings, including the whole of social care and the NHS. The new scheme will make it far more difficult for abusers to gain access to some of the most vulnerable groups in society and will be a significant step forward.

Epilepsy

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the implementation of the Government Action Plan for Epilepsy; and when the plan will be reviewed; [155950]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of access for patients with epilepsy; and how many patients are on the waiting list. [155951]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the implementation of the action plan for epilepsy, and have no current plans to review this plan. The National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions is now the key policy document for improving health and social care services for neurological conditions, including epilepsy.

Following the publication of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report "Wasted Money, Wasted Lives", an adjournment debate was held to highlight the findings of this report into the current state of epilepsy services. During this debate I accepted an invitation to meet with the APPG to discuss their findings.

We have made no recent assessment of access for patients with epilepsy. Information on the number of people with epilepsy on waiting lists is not available centrally.

Eyesight: Testing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* pre-school children, *(b)* children under five years and *(c)* children under 12 years received eye tests in each primary care trust in the last 12 months. [158637]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected for the age bands requested. Information on children aged 0 to 15 years will be available at primary care trust (PCT) level in the publication "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: April 2007-September 2007". This will be published by March 2008.

The total number of sight tests paid for in England by PCTs for children aged 0-15 years for the year ending 31 March 2007 is 2,113,480. This represents 20.2 per cent. of total sight tests provided in England for this period. The percentage of children aged 0-15 having a sight test was 21.8 per cent. in 2006-07, although a few children may have had more than one sight test during the year.

These data are extracted from table B4 of the General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2007 report.

This report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/eye-care/general-ophthalmic-services:-activity-statistics-for-england-and-wales--year-ending-31-march-2007

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the statement made by the Prime Minister that the Darzi review is the largest consultation on the future of the NHS ever conducted, as stated in his article of 18 September 2007 at www.pm.gov.ukoutput/Page13219.asp. [156788]

Ann Keen: The National Health Service Next Stage Review is an ongoing process of engagement. The scale of these discussions is unprecedented with engagement in nine strategic health authorities involving clinicians, other staff, patients, the public and other key local stakeholders, including social care, local government and the voluntary sector.

Health Services: Autism

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the ability of the service plans of local commissioners to meet the needs of people with autism in *(a)* Portsmouth and *(b)* Hampshire; and if he will make a statement; [158553]

(2) what plans he has to ensure that local commissioners *(a)* demonstrate their plans to provide services to people with autism and *(b)* implement those plans with adequate resources in (i) Portsmouth and (ii) Hampshire; and if he will make a statement. [158554]

Ann Keen: The provision of services for people with autism is a matter for the local national health service.

Heart Disease: Death

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on survival rates of victims of *(a)* cardiac arrest and *(b)* heart attack which take place outside a hospital. [157009]

Ann Keen: We do not hold national figures on survival after out of hospital cardiac arrest but London ambulance service analyses from 2005-06 show a survival rate of 10.9 per cent. for arrests witnessed by bystanders in London.

Treatment of heart attacks is audited nationally through the Myocardial Infarction National Audit Project, which has links to mortality data held by the Office for National Statistics. It is therefore possible to determine the mortality rate for those suffering a heart attack who receive treatment. Latest available figures (2005-06) indicate that the survival rate (all ages) for those who experience a heart attack and receive treatment is just over 90 per cent. For under 75-year-olds who experience a heart attack there is just over 95 per cent. chance of survival.

Hospices: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will increase the level of funding from the NHS to hospices. [158662]

Ann Keen: We are developing an End of Life Care Strategy, which will deliver increased choice to all adults regardless of their condition about where they live and die. The strategy will, among many other issues, look at the role of and funding for hospices.

Hospital Beds: Paediatrics

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued by his Department on bed occupancy rates for paediatric units. [158209]

Ann Keen: No guidance has been issued. An appropriate occupancy rate will need to be able to react to changing local circumstances, such as local demand and staff availability and thereby ensure the delivery of a safe and flexible service. Such issues are best determined locally.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to hospital trusts on the management and eradication of hospital-acquired infections. [159665]

Ann Keen: Reducing health care associated infections (HCAIs), including meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile* is a priority for the Department.

Extensive guidance has been issued over the years and is summarised in the reference section of The Health Act 2006, "Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Health Care Associated Infections". A copy has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4139336

In addition, recent guidance includes the following:

"Saving Lives: reducing infection, delivering clean and safe care" (updated in June 2007) provides tools to help achieve effective prevention and control of HCAI. This includes high impact intervention care bundles on the use of various catheters, a care bundle for ventilated patients; and best practice documents on prevention of surgical site infection; taking blood cultures; screening for MRSA colonisation, *C. difficile* and antimicrobial prescribing. This report is available in the Library and also at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_078134

"Isolating patients with health care associated infection" which will help ensure safe placement management and care of patients with infections. This report has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk/cms/ArticleFiles/mmn4zs453tvojo45jrxa1kui25082005104027/Files/IsolationGuidance_07.pdf

"Epic 2: National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare—Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England", published in February 2007, provides the evidence base for many elements of clinical practice which are essential for prevention and control of health care associated infections and which can be adapted for use locally. This report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.epic.tvu.ac.uk/PDF%20Files/epic2/epic2-final.pdf

A professional letter on health care associated infections including particularly infection caused by *Clostridium difficile* was issued to all chief executives of NHS acute trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities on 7 December 2006. This letter set out the policies and clinical practices needed to control *Clostridium difficile* and also included very simple operational guidance for managers. A copy has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_063090

This followed up the joint professional letter from the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Nursing Officer issued in December 2005 reminding them of the importance of this infection and listed the key actions to control *Clostridium difficile* and highlighted the guidance available. The letter has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/ProfessionalLetters/ChiefMedicalOfficerLetters/ChiefMedicalOfficerLettersArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4125069&chk=cuQ7C%2B

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the take up by pensioners in Peterborough constituency of influenza vaccinations in each year since 1997. [159050]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested. However, data on the uptake of flu vaccine for those aged 65 and over was collected for the first time from 2000-01.

The following table shows the percentage of those aged 65 and over who received a flu vaccine in the Peterborough primary care trust (PCT) area for which data are available.

	PCT	*Percentage of those aged 65 and over who received flu vaccine*
2000-01	Data collected by health authority	[1]
2001-02	Data collected by health authority	[1]
2002-03	South Peterborough	71
	North Peterborough	71
2003-04	South Peterborough	73
	North Peterborough	74
2004-05	South Peterborough	74
	North Peterborough	75
2005-06	South Peterborough	77
	North Peterborough	78
2006-07	Peterborough	75

[1] Not available in the format requested

IVF

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking *(a)* to monitor and *(b)* to audit the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on IVF treatment across England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [159047]

Dawn Primarolo: When the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published the clinical guideline on fertility services in 2004, we made it clear that we expected primary care trusts (PCTs) in England to move over time to the provision of three cycles of In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) as recommended. We are working with the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help PCTs to identify and share best practice in the provision of fertility services and achieving the NICE guidelines. To support this work, and help identify where the national health service may need further assistance in delivering services in an equitable way, the Department will monitor IVF provision.

Maidstone NHS Trust: Managers

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department was informed of *(a)* the proposed resignation of the former chief executive of the Maidstone NHS Trust and *(b)* the fact that a financial package was being negotiated for her. [159453]

Ann Keen: The employment of staff, clinicians and managers within the national health service is a matter for local NHS boards. In the case of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells we have asked the NHS trust to withhold any severance payment to the former chief executive prior to the Department considering legal advice on the matter.

Maternity Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse events have been recorded in NHS maternity services *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997, broken down by type of adverse event. [157397]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency collects reports of patient safety incidents on the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS). All national health service trusts have been able to report into this system since late 2004. Complete statistics relevant to this question are available for the years October 2005—September 2006 and for October 2006—September 2007. Staff usually report patient safety incidents before any further investigation or follow-up has taken place.

The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Around 98 per cent. of incidents reported were classed as 'no harm', 'low harm' or 'moderate harm' in the view of the person completing the incident report.

The information should be considered in the context that there were 635,748 women having babies in 2006. All of these women also have many episodes of care.

Incidents broken down by incident types occurring in maternity related specialties.

	Date incident was submitted to the NRLS	
	October 2005-September 2006	*October 2006-September 2007*
Access, admission, transfer, discharge (including missing patient)	6,938	8,779
Clinical assessment (including diagnosis, scans, tests, assessments)	3,640	5,349
Consent, communication, confidentiality	2,625	3,668
Disruptive, aggressive behaviour	46	47
Documentation (including records, identification)	3,351	4,568
Implementation of care and ongoing monitoring / review	1,128	1,751
Infection control incident	356	480

	Date incident was submitted to the NRLS	
	October 2005-September 2006	October 2006-September 2007
Infrastructure (including staffing, facilities, environment)	4,469	6,536
Medical device/equipment	1,500	2,085
Medication	2,081	2,789
Patient abuse (by staff/third party)	43	57
Patient accident	1169	1,617
Self-harming behaviour	25	26
Treatment, procedure	13,695	21,104
Other	2,923	4,915
Not stated	12	30
Total	44,001	63,801

Adverse events occurring in maternity services and reported to the NRLS by NHS trusts in England, by strategic health authority (SHA) and by type of event.

Incidents occurring in maternity related specialties broken down by SHAs

	Date incident was submitted to the NRLS	
SHA code	October 2005-September 2006	October 2006-September 2007
North East SHA	1,785	2,684
North West SHA	5,412	8,265
Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	5,593	6,202
East Midlands SHA	4,072	4,373
West Midlands SHA	1,291	5,050
East of England SHA	5,708	7,629
London SHA	8,124	13,205
South East Coast SHA	4,449	4,953
South Central SHA	4,013	6,197
South West SHA	3,529	5,241
Not specified	25	2
Total	44,001	63,801

Medical Services: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent evidence his Department has considered on the effect on clinical outcomes of centralisation of services for *(a)* stroke, *(b)* heart attack, *(c)* respiratory problems and *(d)* other conditions. [157008]

Ann Keen: "Mending hearts and brains", published in December 2006, by the National Clinical Director for Heart Disease and Stroke, makes a clinical case for changes to the way heart attack and stroke services are provided in both hospital and community settings.

This, and similar publications issued with respect to mental health, cancer and children and maternity services in particular, is not intended to be prescriptive but to explain the clinical reasons for changing the way in which services are provided in order to save lives and achieve better outcomes for patients.

The Department is currently developing a National Service Framework for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. This will be published in 2008.

Midwives: NHS Stockport Primary Care Trust

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed in the NHS Stockport Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997; and how many vacancies for midwives there were in the trust in each year. [157999]

Ann Keen: Midwives are employed by acute trusts rather than primary care trusts. The number of midwives employed by Stockport NHS Foundation Trust and its predecessor organisations since 1997 is listed in the following table. The national health service vacancy survey started in 1999 and records vacancies lasting three months or more. Since the survey began, two vacancies have been recorded at Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, both in March 2005.

	Number
1997	195
1998	178
1999	179
2000	162
2001	188
2002	175
2003	165
2004	159
2005	164
2006	176

Notes:
1. On 1 April 2000, Stockport Acute Services NHS Trust and Stockport Healthcare NHS Trust merged to form Stockport NHS Trust. The Trust achieved foundation status on 1 April 2004.
2. Figures listed are at 30 September on each specified year.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

MRSA: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing MRSA screening for *(a)* elective and *(b)* all admissions to hospital. [158463]

Ann Keen: Estimates of costs for introducing meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are up to £37 million per year and for MRSA screening for all admissions to hospital are up to £124 million per year.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in management positions in NHS trusts in *(a)* England and *(b)* the east of England earned more than £100,000 per annum in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 1997-98 in (1) cash and (2) real terms. [158783]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect details on the pay of individuals in national health service trusts. We therefore cannot provide the number earning more than £100,000 per annum.

NHS organisations are public bodies and as such, the pay of their senior executive teams is a matter of public record, published in their annual accounts.

Following the reconfigurations proposed by "Commissioning A Patient-led NHS", the Department in July 2006 published a new "Pay Framework for very senior managers in strategic and special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts in July 2006". A copy of the report is available in the Library. Primary care trust executives (chief executives and board level directors) are paid a spot rate salary which is determined (within a range) by the size of the population the PCT serves; for ambulance trust executives it is determined by their expenditure on emergency services and activity.

The spot rate salaries for 2006-07 are shown in the following tables, reflecting the staged pay award announced on 30 March 2006. The Framework also provides for the payment of recruitment and retention premia (of up to 30 per cent. of the spot rate salary) and payments for additional duties (up to 10 per cent, of the spot rate salary) where appropriate.

A copy of the "Very Senior Managers' Pay Framework" (updated July 2007) has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_076986

Primary Care Trusts 2006-07 Rates

	% of CE	Weighted population:	Up to 150,000	150,000 to 300,000	300,000 to 500,000	500,000 to 1 million	Over 1 million
			PCT Band 1	PCT Band 2	PCT Band 3	PCT Band 4	PCT Band 5
PCT Chief Executive Spot Rate		October 2006 rates	99,044	109,470	119,896	130,322	140,747
		November 2006 rates	100,221	110,771	121,320	131,870	142,420
PCT Directors							
Finance	75	October 2006 rates	74,283	82,103	89,922	97,742	105,560
		November 2006 rates	75,166	83,078	90,990	98,903	106,815
Public Health	70	October 2006 rates	69,331	76,629	833,927	91,225	98,523
		November 2006 rates	70,155	77,540	84,924	92,309	99,694
Commissioning Nursing Operations Performance Planning	65	October 2006 rates	64,379	71,156	77,932	84,709	91,486
		November 2006 rates	65,144	72,001	78,858	85,716	92,573
Human Resources IM&T	60	October 2006 rates	59,426	65,682	71,938	78,193	84,448
		November 2006 rates	60,133	66,463	72,792	79,122	85,452
Corporate Affairs	55	October 2006 rates	54,474	60,209	65,943	71,677	77,411
		November 2006 rates	55,122	60,924	66,726	72,529	78,331

Ambulance Trusts 2006-07 Rates

			Banding by Emergency Expenditure and Activity:			
	% of CE		AT Band 1	AT Band 2	AT Band 3	AT Band 4
AT Chief Executive Spot Rate		July 2006 rates	106,050	114,130	121,200	141,400
		November 2006 rates	707,370	775,486	722,640	743,080
AT Directors						
Finance	75	July 2006 rates	79,538	85,598	90,900	106,050
		November 2006 rates	80,483	86,675	97,980	707,370
Operations	70	July 2006 rates	74,235	79,891	84,840	98,980
		November 2006 rates	75,777	80,840	85,848	700,756
Human Resources	60	July 2006 rates	63,630	68,478	72,720	84,840

Ambulance Trusts 2006-07 Rates

		Banding by Emergency Expenditure and Activity:			
	% of CE		*AT Band 1*	*AT Band 2*	*AT Band 3*	*AT Band 4*
		November 2006 rates	64,386	69,292	73,584	85,848

NHS: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the 2006-07 Resource Accounts for the NHS pension scheme to be published. [159107]

Ann Keen: The National Health Service Pension Scheme Resource Accounts for the 2006-07 year should be laid before Parliament on Monday 22 October.

Nurses: Manpower

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were employed by Stockport Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997. [158006]

Ann Keen: The information requested can be found in the following table:

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the Stockport primary care trust (PCT) as at 30 September each specified year
headcount

	Number
2001	365
2002	429
2003	401
2004	423
2005	437
2006	467

Note:
More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Obesity

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of obesity in England. [159458]

Dawn Primarolo: Obesity is a serious problem, with significant health, social and financial costs. Successfully tackling the problem requires a whole society approach.

The Foresight report (copies of which are available in the Library) predicts that by 2050 over half the adult population will be obese, costing the nation an extra £45.5 billion a year.

The Government have already made significant progress in a number of areas. For example:

We have worked with Ofcom to change the nature and balance of advertising food to children, by restricting the promotion of foods high in salt, sugar and fat.

We have transformed school sport over the past five years, with 86 per cent. of school children now doing two hours of quality school sport a week. And we want to go further so that every child has the chance of five hours of sport every week, backed by £100 million a year additional investment.

We have put in place tougher nutritional standards for school food, supported by an investment of £500 million between 2005 and 2011 to transform school food across the school day.

In March 2006, the Food Standards Agency launched their signpost model for front of pack food labelling.

We commissioned Foresight to use scientific evidence to help us understand more fully the scale of the problem and with the publication of their report today, we now have a world-leading evidence platform to move further and faster in our approach to tackling obesity.

The Government have committed to go further and faster on its existing obesity policies and will be developing a comprehensive cross-Government strategy on obesity, building on the evidence in this report. The work will be led by a cross-governmental ministerial group convened by the Secretary of State for Health.

Prostate Cancer: Screening

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prostate specific antigen (PSA) tests were carried out by the national health service in 2006-07; how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer as a result of the test; what alternatives to the PSA test have been assessed; what plans he has to introduce such alternative tests; and what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government on methods of prostate cancer diagnosis. [157978]

Ann Keen: The prostate specific antigen (PSA) test measures the level of PSA in a man's blood. However, it is not perfect. Some men with prostate cancer do not have raised levels of PSA. Two-thirds of men with raised levels of PSA, depending on the cut-off level used, do not have prostate cancer. The PSA test cannot distinguish between men with slow-growing prostate cancer and those who have a more aggressive disease.

The number of PSA tests carried out in the national health service is not held centrally. The Department policy research programme funded a study on urological referral in men with raised PSA levels and patterns of testing in general practice between 2002 and 2004. The study showed that the annual rate of testing is estimated to be 8.6 per 100 men [1].

The number of men diagnosed with prostate cancer as a result of having a PSA test is not held centrally. However, it is likely that most men with a diagnosis of prostate cancer had at least one PSA test as part of the diagnostic process.

The Government are committed to introducing a national screening programme for prostate cancer if and when screening and treatment techniques are sufficiently well developed. There is currently insufficient evidence from any country in the world to show that screening would reduce deaths from prostate cancer. The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) keeps screening for prostate cancer under review.

The Department is supporting the development of screening technology for prostate cancer by having a comprehensive research strategy into all aspects of prostate cancer. We are jointly with other National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) members funding two NCRI Prostate Cancer Research Collaboratives, and the Department has funded half of the total £7.4 million cost for the first three years. Following a review of progress by an international expert panel the Department, Cancer Research UK and the Medical Research Council have agreed to provide a further three years funding of £3.9 million. The research undertaken by the Collaboratives covers all aspects of prostate cancer, and the NSC will be kept closely informed of any research results affecting the evidence base of prostate cancer screening. We are also monitoring international trials on prostate cancer screening.

It is important to note that in order for a screening technology to contribute to saving lives it is essential for there to be effective treatments for the disease detected. That is why the Department is funding a £20 million trial of treatments for (PSA) screen-detected early prostate cancer (the ProtecT trial). The trial is due to complete in 2008.

Regarding the Welsh Assembly, the Director of Cancer Services at NHS Wales is an observer on the Department's Prostate Cancer Advisory Group.

[1] This is estimated data from selected general practitioners (GPs) at four laboratories and does not represent the whole of England. Only GP requests for PSA testing were included in the study, not those from urology departments. The study did not include testing undertaken in the independent sector. The study was restricted to men aged 45 to 84 years.

Streptococcus: Pregnant Women

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will assess the latest evidence for testing pregnant women for group B streptococcus; and if he will make a statement. [157834]

Ann Keen: The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four UK countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, it assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria.

The UK NSC is considering the implications of the latest research as part of an ongoing programme of work to assess the evidence on the best way to reduce newborn group B streptococcus infections.